



# General Assembly

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 28 (b) and 124

**Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family**

**Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

### **Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, on behalf of Bangladesh in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the outcome document of the general debate on rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth, adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 28 (b) and 124.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Outcome document of the general debate on rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth**

**Adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka**

As an international organization, as national parliaments and as individual representatives of the people, we are driven by our belief in democracy.

We understand democracy as both a set of values and as a system of institutions that puts those values into practice. At the most fundamental level, we believe that everyone has the right to be heard, and that all voices carry equal weight. Our primary responsibility as parliamentarians is to serve the people and deliver policies and legislation that address their needs and interests.

We understand that there is no single model of democracy. A country's institutions evolve from its particular history, culture and traditions. Equally, we unequivocally reaffirm that the principles of democracy are universal. We reaffirm the core values of democratic parliaments. Those values are about:

- Seeking to be representative of the country's social and political diversity;
- Being open to our citizens and transparent in the conduct of parliamentary business;
- Ensuring accessibility and accountability to our citizens; and
- Performing our work effectively.

We underline that the practices of democracy must constantly change with the times, so that they reflect the societies that nourish them.

Today, our democracies face key challenges. We are challenged to restore and strengthen public confidence in the institutions of democracy. The perception of disconnect, corruption and inauthenticity undermines our institutions and the image of politics and politicians. Voter turnout in elections has tended to decrease over time, especially among young people. Barriers to democracy, and the tendency for any part of the population to turn their backs on our institutions, are a concern to us all. Statistically, young people are least likely to vote and are increasingly disengaged from formal political processes.

This lack of engagement cannot be attributed to apathy. Young people use many different platforms to engage in democracy, such as social media, youth organizations and in some cases, protests and unrest. Rather, political institutions have too often failed to open up to young people. Our institutions have not kept up with the fast-changing and increasingly interconnected world into which young people have been born.

More than half of the world today is under 30 years of age. As today's young people become tomorrow's adult population, we run the risk of failing to address

their growing disengagement. Over time, that failure threatens to undermine the very legitimacy of our governments and parliaments. We must act now.

We note with satisfaction that in the 2030 Agenda, governments recognize that peace, justice and strong institutions are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We have long held that belief. We can and must do more to ensure that parliaments live up to the core values that we have defined for ourselves. We believe that the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without inclusively harnessing the power of all parts of our societies. Harnessing the dynamism of young people is a top priority as they will be the prime beneficiaries of the Agenda's results. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development now provides an opportunity to renew momentum for strengthening the institutions of democracy.

Our response to rising extremism must be based on more democracy, not less. Radicalism can only be defeated if we give young people the opportunities they deserve. We must stand firm in our beliefs and not be tempted into undemocratic responses to the challenges facing us.

It is time to take action for a democratic renaissance. And we can start rejuvenating democracy today by giving voice to youth. Citizens of all ages have a role to play in rejuvenating democracy. However, young people are now the majority of the world population. They are critical thinkers, change makers and bearers of fresh ideas. That is why we are convinced that young people are ideally placed to be the key agents of a democratic renaissance. We therefore need to make sure that we give voice to youth and that we are ready and able to hear that voice.

Increasing youth participation is a key element of giving voice to youth which will rejuvenate democracy. We are concerned that only 1.9 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are aged under 30. We recognize that we have a duty to create an enabling environment that guarantees young people's participation and galvanizes their leadership. We acknowledge that no decision about youth should be taken without youth. That is why we pledge to increase youth representation in parliament. And that is why we need to link up with youth, both formally and informally. We must reach out to them where they are — on social media platforms, in schools, universities and public spaces. We reaffirm with renewed vigour our commitment to implement the 2010 IPU resolution Youth participation in the democratic process by enhancing young people's connection to the world of politics and facilitating their political representation.

Rejuvenating democracy is about ensuring that everyone is included. Our governments must be based on the will of the people and be accountable to the people for their actions. Healthy institutions of democracy must ensure that power is not concentrated in the hands of the few. Inclusion is necessary not only to ensure that the rights of people are continuously respected and fulfilled, but also to bring all people closer to political institutions and ensure that we make better policy.

Through inclusive parliaments, citizens can shape their democracies according to their own circumstances and better contribute to the make-up of the societies of today and tomorrow.

Rejuvenating democracy is also about adapting our parliaments to our time. It is about rethinking their processes, so as to respond to evolving social and individual needs. By being gender-sensitive in their composition, structures and work, our parliaments can adapt better to the growing evolution of men and

women's roles in society and in the family. Gender-sensitive parliaments have great benefits, in particular to young women and men parliamentarians, as no one should sacrifice their personal life to engage in politics today.

Rejuvenating democracy is about modernizing the functioning of our institutions. Opening up to new technologies makes it possible to usher in a new era of democracy 2.0. The exponential increase in the use of modern technologies and social media, and in access to information has changed the ways that citizens participate. Our parliaments must open up to the online world in their structures and mechanisms, so as to adapt to the expanded space and time of modern communication, interaction and participation.

Rejuvenating democracy is about changing the way politics is done. Citizens rightly expect the highest levels of integrity from us and our institutions. Change will be driven by clean politics, transparent procedures, and anti-corruption policies and laws. They should be implemented by all of us. By honestly fulfilling our mandate as representatives of the people, we will contribute to rebuilding the weakened trust in us and our institutions. We will make our democracies better and stronger if we keep our electoral promises, remain accessible to our citizens, act responsibly, transparently and accountably, and inspire young people through our words and actions.

Rejuvenating democracy is also about delivering for a better future. The voices of future generations need to be included in our political debates and processes. We need to ensure that our posterity has a better quality of life than we do, and can live a healthy life on a healthy planet. We therefore need to make sure that our deliberations and decisions embody the needs of tomorrow's generations.

At this 134th Assembly, many innovative proposals for strengthening democracy and engaging young people have been put forward. We encourage governments and parliaments to experiment with new ideas that could make the institutions of democracy more responsive to the people.

We pledge to rejuvenate democracy including by taking action to:

- Renew and refresh the profile of people who hold political office, so that parliaments and other decision-making bodies are more inclusive of society's social and political diversity;
- Enhance youth representation in our parliaments, including by considering the adoption of quotas, revisiting age restrictions to run for political office, building party political support, entrusting young MPs with leadership positions, and promoting young MPs as role models for other young people; particular attention should be given to the specific situation and needs of young women;
- Reform our parliamentary processes and internal policies to make them more sensitive to the needs of younger women and men, including by considering the adoption of anti-harassment policies, reforming parental leave, and implementing proxy voting;
- Promote the use of modern technologies to enhance transparency and accountability; use innovations such as online petitions, virtual hearings and submissions, and online interactions and voting to bring citizens, and young people in particular, into the parliamentary process;

- Establish specialized parliamentary committees on youth and networks of young parliamentarians to consolidate youth perspectives into parliamentary work; open up parliamentary deliberations to young people, including through regular parliamentary hearings and consultations, as well as through linking up with youth parliaments and councils, student associations and youth NGOs;
- Ensure that political empowerment is promoted in school curricula through civic education and practical initiatives, such as mock parliaments, mock voting and political debating; invest in youth parliaments and councils for young people below the voting age and enhance youth participation in politics by lowering the voting age;
- Include young representatives in international fora and deliberations, in particular at the IPU, by systematically including at least one young man or young woman member in delegations;
- Use the International Day of Democracy (15 September) to celebrate the successes of democracy and face up to its challenges.

It is our duty to rejuvenate democracy to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. In doing so, we must harness the creativity, energy and enthusiasm of our citizens, particularly of young men and women. We cannot wait for another generation to act. The time to act is now.

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# General Assembly

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 20, 120, 123 and 124

### Sustainable development

### Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

### United Nations reform: measures and proposals

### Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

## **Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, on behalf of Bangladesh in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 20, 120, 123 and 124.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

**Adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka**

The President of the Committee, Mr. Anti Avsan (Sweden) opened the session welcoming participants.

Referring to the first two items on the agenda, Mr. Avsan invited the Committee to adopt the report of the previous session at the 133rd Assembly and elect three new members to the Bureau following nominations received by the geopolitical groups: Mr. Alexander Romanovich (Russian Federation), Ms. Afra Rashed Albasti (UAE), and Mr. Al-Fatish Izzeldin Al-Mansour (Sudan).

Mr. Romanovich having returned to the capital, was introduced by Mr. Kostantin Kosachev as a former member of the Bureau also from the Russian Federation. Ms. Albasti talked about her work with women and domestic violence and her interest in international affairs, particularly peacekeeping. As Mr. Al-Mansour was ill, he was absent from the room.

Mr. Avsan proceeded to introduce the two sessions on the programme, which he chaired.

**Session 1: Interactive debate on the new election process for the UN Secretary General**

*Senator Graciela Ortiz, President of the Legislative Studies Committee (Senate of Mexico), and member of the Bureau of the IPU Committee on UN Affairs; Mr. Konstantin Kosachev, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Council of the Federation, Russia; and Ms. Yvonne Terlingen, Representative of the 1 for 7 Billion Campaign*

This session provided members with an opportunity to comment on a new appointment process for the selection of the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) as outlined in a Secretariat background note. The note traced the history of the appointment process over 70 years of the United Nations and showed that most of the applicable rules are derived by practice and not from the UN Charter. It is possible for member States to change these rules by a resolution of the General Assembly.

As part of the ongoing reform process of the United Nations, a large number of member States have demanded that the appointment of the UNSG be more transparent and inclusive of the entire membership, through the General Assembly, and not confined to the 15-member Security Council where five permanent members (with veto power) hold most of the decision-making authority. A more democratic selection process would help ensure the impartiality of the UNSG and empower him or her to act as a true representative of the “peoples” referred to in the UN Charter.

The background note proposed seven questions for discussion inquiring into the qualifications for the post of UNSG, the renewability of the term of office, and considerations for gender balance as well as regional representation. Most importantly, the note invited a reflection on the key question of whether the General Assembly should hold a real election and not be limited to approving the one candidate recommended by the Security Council. This would require the Security Council to submit to the General Assembly more than one name.

Elaborating further, Ms. Terlingen gave a detailed presentation of a new appointment process the General Assembly adopted in resolution 69/321 of September 2015. Mr. Kosachev and Ms. Ortiz acted as respondents to her presentation. The following fifteen delegations contributed comments and questions afterwards: Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cuba, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Uganda, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Zambia.

Ms. Terlingen noted that while the new appointment process represents a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough. She noted two important innovations: first, government-nominated candidates must submit their CVs to the President of the General Assembly and all CVs must be posted online; second, the General Assembly can convene informal public hearings with the candidates. The new process also more explicitly than ever invites woman candidates to come forward and stresses the need to consider gender diversity in this process — which so far has always led to the appointment of only men.

From the standpoint of the 1 for 7 Billion campaign (an umbrella organization of 750 civil society organizations), the new rules should limit the mandate of the UNSG to a single non-renewable term (possibly extended to seven years) in order to enhance the political independence of the UNSG from the P5 and other key members whose support he/she needs to be re-elected. Most of all, the rules should allow the General Assembly to hold a vote on a slate of at least two nominations from the Security Council.

Ms. Terlingen said “the UNSG represents the conscience of the world and plays an important role in helping Member States rise above their national interests”. It is important that his or her selection be as inclusive and representative as possible. To this effect, she suggested that parliamentarians should play a role in the process by holding debates on the qualifications required for the post; by helping identify qualified candidates; by scrutinizing the eventual nominations; by proposing questions to be asked of the candidates at the hearings of the General Assembly; by insisting that the UNSG be free to appoint his/her cabinet based on merit alone (i.e., not as patronage appointments); by advocating a single term of office; and, by insisting that the Security Council submit more than one recommendation to the General Assembly, thus making the process more democratic.

In his response, Mr. Kosachev cautioned that any changes to the current system must be carefully considered bearing in mind the long-term consequences. This year’s new process, which will lead to the appointment of a new UNSG effective January 2017, is not the only window of opportunity to make changes. For Mr. Kosachev, the mandate of the UNSG as defined in the Charter is primarily of an administrative nature, as head of the Secretariat. The UNSG’s political functions are very limited and subject to guidance from the General Assembly. From this



standpoint, it is not wrong for the UNSG to be dependent on the membership instead of being empowered to act alone.

According to Mr. Kosachev, regional rotation of the UNSG is welcome so that the whole world will eventually be represented in the position. Gender balance is also welcome, provided the best qualified person is chosen in the end. On the question of term limits, Mr. Kosachev disagreed with the argument that a single term is more empowering than two consecutive terms. On the key question of whether the P5 members of the Security Council should retain the power to veto a nomination, Mr. Kosachev argued that this system is much more constraining than people think because it forces the P5 and indeed the whole membership of the Security Council to come to consensus.

Ms. Ortiz remarks as a discussant focused on the gender aspects of the selection process. She welcomed that more member States were supportive of women candidates and hoped this would lead to a woman to be elected for the first time in 2016. While noting that the Security Council's control of the process is not democratic, Ms. Ortiz worried that the gender composition of the Security Council is another issue that needs to be addressed. If the Council is to remain in control of the selection, and if the selection is equally open to women as it is to men, then the Council itself needs to be reformed to ensure gender parity. A male-dominated Council is less likely to pick a woman candidate than one in which women are equally represented.

In the ensuing debate with delegates, while a few of them expressed general satisfaction with the status quo, most participants expressed support for further democratization of the UNSG appointment process. These interventions clearly signalled that the selection process must become transparent and involve all member States, not just those who sit on the Security Council, and reinforced the view that the UNSG is accountable to the more representative General Assembly. Two interventions went farther, recommending that the process should end with a vote by the General Assembly on more than one candidate, as is the practice at the IPU. Three interventions supported the idea of a single, non-renewable term.

The debate showed strong support for women candidates to be considered. One intervention specifically suggested that the focus should not be limited to inviting women candidates but more importantly to making sure a woman is actually elected. Several UN agencies have been or are being led by women and there is no question that highly qualified women are available to take the top job of UNSG. To ensure gender balance in the outcome of the selection process, one delegate suggested that a gender "rotation" should be instituted so that the UNSG post will alternate between a man and a woman (i.e., presumably, this will require admitting only male candidates or only female candidates on each occasion).

That parliaments should have a role in the selection process came through quite strongly in the debate. Several speakers expressed support for many of Ms. Terlingen's recommendations, particularly the idea that parliaments hold debates on their governments' nominees and even submit their own proposals. A specific suggestion from the floor was that parliaments need to support the UNSG in his/her efforts to implement key administrative reforms that are required to strengthen the United Nations.

Concluding the debate, participants asked the IPU to transmit the following three questions to all candidates in the running this year:

1. Agenda 2030 will be successful if members of parliament are involved in the development of their national action plans, in monitoring implementation, and in aligning budgets and legislation to the agenda. As UNSG, will you advocate with member States for parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda and attendant SDGs?
2. Numerous GA resolutions and UNSG reports recommend a strong relationship between the UN and national parliaments, as well as with the IPU. As UNSG, what specific actions would you take to strengthen these relationships at global and national levels to more effectively serve the people?
3. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians want to ensure a more democratic UNSG selection process. How do you think parliamentarians, through the IPU, the world organization of parliaments, can have a role in this process?

## **Session 2: Briefing on the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

*Mr. Laszlo Borbely, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies of Romania; Ms. Paddy Torsney, Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations; Mr. Alessandro Motter, Senior Advisor for economic and social affairs, IPU; Mr. Charles Chauvel, Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP*

Further to a decision of the Bureau at the October 2015 session, the overarching aim of this session was to provide the Committee with a structure enabling it to work as the IPU's main body for a regular review of SDGs implementation over the next 15 years. The panel presented various approaches and elaborated on several concrete suggestions.

After presenting an overview of various new or established review mechanisms, Mr. Motter described the entry points for parliaments to engage in SDGs implementation at three levels: national, regional and global. At the national level, a key role for parliaments is to deepen national ownership of the goals and to ensure a national plan to localize the goals is firmly in place. Key to the accountability role of parliaments is that their governments present to them an annual report of progress on the implementation of the plan. At the global level, Mr. Motter noted, parliaments have an opportunity to contribute to the work of the new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development that will be the main UN hub for an annual global progress review. Among other things, parliaments should participate in national voluntary reviews and join their national delegations to HLPF sessions.

An initial step all parliaments can take towards implementation is to adopt a motion or a resolution on the SDGs. Mr. Avsan introduced a template resolution the IPU has prepared. He noted that the parliaments of Mali and Trinidad and Tobago have already adopted resolutions and encouraged all delegations in the room to follow suit. He reported that several members of the Bureau, such as Canada, Sudan, Morocco, Norway and Sweden, had pledged to table a resolution this year.

The IPU is gearing up to help parliaments institutionalize the SDGs. Ms. Torsney provided one illustration of this in the form of a self-assessment toolkit the IPU will publish in May. She invited members interested in providing feedback to the toolkit, which is still in draft, to contact her. The delegations of Mali and Lesotho expressed an interest in being part of this exercise.

Exploring the regional level of implementation and review, Mr. Borbely highlighted the case of the Eastern European region. His parliament was host to a regional conference on the SDGs last year and will again convene a meeting in April of this year. He noted how all SDG-related processes present an opportunity to strengthen parliaments' accountability role. In his parliament, the sub-committee for sustainable development will have a key role in mainstreaming the SDSs in the committee system, strengthening policy coherence. He urged the IPU to integrate the SDGs in its new five year strategy and to focus on assisting parliaments in institutionalizing the SDGs in their day-to-day work.

For his part, Mr. Chauvel outlined how the UN is gearing up to help parliaments implement the SDGs at the country level. He recalled that the 2030 Agenda rests on open, inclusive and participatory reporting, a people-centred approach, and evidence-based support. He noted that there is strong agreement in principle that parliaments are a key stakeholder in implementation, along with civil society and other actors, but this will not translate automatically into action to engage or support the parliaments. Proactive efforts will be required. Some of the impetus will need to come from citizens themselves. To help with this, the UN will retool the existing My World survey facility so that people can use it to provide feedback on government policy and services directly to their members of parliament.

The following delegations participated from the floor debate: Cuba, France, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe. Their comments elaborated on some of the points made by the panel with further ideas and suggestions. Several comments in particular pointed to the need to strengthen parliaments to allow them to play a strong role in implementation. Two interventions elaborated on the role of the national sustainable development plan as the centerpiece of implementation in each country.

It was agreed that each spring session of the UN Committee will henceforth be utilized to perform three basic tasks: to take stock of global progress on the SDGs (UN reports); to prepare concerned parliaments for the voluntary national reviews to the HLPF; to prompt parliaments to perform a self-assessment of their capacity to implement the SDGs and to showcase best practices in that regard.



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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 68, 85 and 124

### Promotion and protection of the rights of children

#### The rule of law at the national and international levels

#### Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

### **Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, on behalf of Bangladesh in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the resolution entitled "Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: one of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the twenty-first century", adopted unanimously on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 68, 85 and 124.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: one of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the twenty-first century**

**Resolution adopted unanimously on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka**

*The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,*

*Alarmed* by the existence, according to UNICEF estimates, of more than 230 million children under five years of age without a legal identity because they were not registered at birth and by the fact that one in every seven children registered in the world does not have a birth certificate attesting to his/her legal identity,

*Observing* that without a civil status, these children are severely hampered throughout their lives (unable to go to school, vote, marry, receive welfare benefits, inherit, etc.) and fall victim to trafficking (illegal adoption, prostitution and criminal networks), which is further exacerbated in situations of humanitarian crisis,

*Considering* that having a reliable, comprehensive and lasting civil registry is a necessary prerequisite for drawing up credible electoral lists and, as a consequence, the legitimacy of electoral processes,

*Concerned* about the “black holes” in statistics caused by the absence of registration of these children, which disrupts the planning and the management of public services for children,

*Recalling* different provisions and instruments under international law, in particular:

- Article 24, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted on 16 December 1966 by the UN General Assembly,
- Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989,
- Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which the IPU fully supports, including target 16.9, “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”,
- The Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocols, especially the Fourth Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- The 1977 Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts,

*Also alarmed* by the tremendous impact of humanitarian crises, particularly in situations of conflict, on the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children,

*Convinced* of the absolute need to fully meet the needs of those children in terms of assistance and protection through the mandates of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to request their governments to put in place measures to inform parents of the need to register children at birth and remove all barriers to the registration of children in registry offices regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, language, religion or social status;

2. *Requests* parliaments to adopt laws to ensure the issuance of birth certificates free of charge or, at least, to reduce to a minimum the cost of birth registration;

3. *Calls for* registry offices to be set up as close as possible to homes by distributing them throughout the country with as a wide coverage as possible;

4. *Recommends* that parliaments take measures to allow women to register births;

5. *Calls for* support for the implementation of applications for mobile devices that allow authorized persons (e.g. midwives, village leaders and school principals) to register births;

6. *Invites* parliaments to promote campaigns on regularizing the status of children without a legal identity through roving public hearings that move from village to village;

7. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure adequate funding for civil registry, including moving towards the digitization of registration where possible;

8. *Urges* in particular parties to armed conflict to respect schools and hospitals and to provide unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance and to give humanitarian personnel all the facilities required to carry out their work;

9. *Calls on* governments and parties to conflict to meet their obligations in conformity with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the obligations set forth in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005;

10. *Strongly urges* the IPU to commit to monitoring developments on this issue.

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 10, 16 and 124

### Return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin

#### Culture of peace

#### Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

### **Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, on behalf of Bangladesh in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the resolution entitled "Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity", adopted unanimously on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 16 and 124.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity**

**Resolution adopted unanimously on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka**

*The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,*

*Recalling* that several UNESCO Conventions already provide an international legal framework for the protection of heritage,

*Also recalling* the working paper on “Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity”, which highlights the need for further mechanisms to protect this legacy, and which also mentions the nine main challenges referred to below,<sup>1</sup>

**Armed conflict and terrorism**

*Noting* that, in situations of armed conflict, there is an almost systematic destruction of cultural heritage, whether as collateral damage or intentional destruction,

*Recalling* that the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the 1954 Hague Convention) and its two Protocols already provide for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and are an integral part of international humanitarian law,

*Regretting* that too few States have ratified those instruments, particularly the Second Protocol, which includes provisions in particular for preventive measures to protect cultural heritage and to enhance that protection,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage, and recalling that Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines such destruction, under certain circumstances, as a war crime, while Article 15 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention considers it an offence,

**Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism**

*Recalling* that looting and illicit trafficking of cultural items are widespread in countries where there is a rich archaeological heritage and where there is either a weak legal and institutional framework or where these activities are considered a significant source of income, and emphasizing the importance of international parliamentary cooperation to combat theft, smuggling and trade in cultural heritage, as well as the funding of terrorism, and the need to enact appropriate laws prohibiting such acts,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/conf-f/133/2cmt-DESTEXHE.pdf>.



*Also recalling* that United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), as well as other relevant Security Council and IPU resolutions, establish a direct link between illicit trafficking of cultural items and the funding of terrorism,

*Underscoring* the need to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to adequately protect underwater cultural heritage against intensive and systematic looting premised on the logic that those who first discover underwater heritage automatically become its owner,

### **Mass tourism**

*Convinced* that cultural heritage constitutes a unique tourist attraction and that mass tourism can be both promising for economic development and damaging for our heritage,

*Emphasizing* the need to evaluate cultural heritage assets against sustainable development evaluation standards,

*Noting* that mass tourism can have adverse impacts on parts of our heritage that are ill-suited to deal with such large numbers of visitors,

*Recalling* that tourists have a duty to maintain and preserve our common heritage, which should help to create visiting conditions that allow each and every one to respect that heritage and at the same time avoid using it inappropriately or untowardly,

*Also recalling* that the necessary balance between encouraging tourism and preserving cultural heritage can only be struck by ensuring the development of “sustainable tourism and conservation practices”,

### **Population growth and urbanization**

*Noting* that population growth and concentration lead to urbanization policies that are likely to seriously damage heritage and its surrounding environment,

*Considering* that spatial planning must be integrated into a sustainable and balanced development approach that reconciles socioeconomic development, in particular regarding tourism, and the conservation and protection of historical and natural heritage,

### **Enhancing awareness**

*Recognizing* the importance of raising awareness from an early age among individuals and communities about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, so as to trigger a process of assuming responsibility for prevention of deterioration and destruction that jeopardize our cultural heritage,

*Also recognizing* the value of developing scientific research and postgraduate studies in the field of urban heritage, so as to train national cadres and create a comprehensive database of urban heritage, which would include all related data and studies, along with efforts to educate the public and raise awareness of urban heritage, its importance and need for its development,

### **Conservation of heritage**

*Insisting* on the imperative that must prevail in the choice of restoration techniques and materials used, as well as the qualification and training of persons entrusted with undertaking such work, so as to prevent any restoration company from causing irreversible damage to heritage or works of art,

*Considering* the positive role that the conservation and restoration of heritage can play in fostering nations' understanding of their history and identity and, through recognition of humanity's common heritage, mutual respect among peoples and recognition of the diversity and equal dignity of the world's cultures,

### **Globalization**

*Also considering* that one of the effects of globalization is the standardization and homogenization of all facets of heritage, which particularly threatens the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage,

### **Climate change and pollution**

*Recognizing* that climate change, natural disasters and man-made disasters can have a negative impact on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage,

*Considering* that strengthening efforts deployed to protect and conserve humanity's natural and cultural heritage is part of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be achieved by 2030 (SDGs target 11.4) adopted by the Member States of the United Nations (UN) in 2015, and expressing the wish to implement what was agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris,

### **Nominations for the World Heritage List**

*Recalling* that greater protection can be provided to items declared and listed as national heritage, and that States should be made aware of that fact,

*Underscoring* the need to protect heritage as a whole, whether listed or not, against common threats,

*Recognizing* the importance of cultural heritage as a strategic resource to ensure sustainable development, and convinced that efforts aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage should be fully integrated into development plans, policies and programmes at all levels,

*Welcoming* the work already done in response to those threats by UNESCO as well as by all international, national and local bodies and organizations as well as natural and legal persons working in the field of cultural heritage,

*Recalling* that, in order to avoid duplication, all the legal instruments relating to heritage should constitute a coherent whole rather than merely exist in parallel,

*Considering* that parliaments have important powers to lead, legislate and oversee government action in order to enable the recommendations below to be effectively implemented,

### **Armed conflict and terrorism**

1. *Urges* States to become party to and incorporate into their national legal framework the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols as applicable;

2. *Encourages* parliaments to adopt comprehensive regulations that provide for measures to protect cultural property in cases of armed conflict, disaster or emergency situation;

3. *Requests* parliaments to ensure that all parties to armed conflict respect cultural property in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and the legal framework established by conventions governing cultural matters that they have ratified;

4. *Recommends* the establishment of mechanisms needed to systematically prosecute the perpetrators of acts of destruction of cultural heritage and also recommends that intentional acts of destruction should be defined as a war crime, according to Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute and in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, and similarly the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as applicable;

5. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of developing a framework for cooperation with international criminal justice bodies and of facilitating the development of inter-State judicial cooperation procedures, which is essential for the prosecution of the perpetrators of the most serious crimes;

6. *Encourages* parliaments to advocate for greater efforts to be made in training staff at museums and other institutions in which cultural heritage is kept so that, in times of war, natural disaster or major emergency, they are able to determine the priorities and modalities for protecting and keeping it safe as a matter of urgency;

7. *Invites* parliaments to legislate in order to anticipate situations of potential armed conflict, by establishing an inventory and an emergency plan for the storage or evacuation of tangible heritage and for the protection of built heritage;

8. *Proposes* to include the protection of cultural and historical sites in multilateral peacekeeping operations;

### **Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism**

9. *Calls upon* States to become party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention,<sup>2</sup> the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), and the UNIDROIT Convention (1995) and to transpose the provisions of these instruments into the national legal framework;<sup>3</sup>

10. *Recommends* that parliaments ensure that States keep an inventory of all significant heritage in the broadest sense, to record the entire inventory on microfiche and/or CD ROM and to keep several secure copies;

11. *Also recommends* that, on the basis of the inventory, that conditions be created to ensure that regular studies are conducted and that complaints of looting can be followed up;

<sup>2</sup> Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

<sup>3</sup> UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).

12. *Invites* parliaments to establish a national body to combat trafficking in cultural property whose mandate would extend to looting within countries' national borders and on the high seas;

13. *Requests* each parliament to ensure that records are established for professional art dealers, which should indicate the origin of the items they purchase;

14. *Strongly urges* parliaments to recommend that all necessary efforts, including the establishment of special police and customs units be made to combat the theft of and suppress illicit trafficking in cultural property;

15. *Encourages* parliaments to support all bilateral or international cooperation initiatives in collaboration with Interpol and the World Customs Organization;

16. *Also encourages* parliaments to advocate for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, which establishes linkages between the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and the funding of terrorism;

17. *Invites* parliaments to adopt legislation or administrative mechanisms consistent with the practical tool entitled "Basic Actions Concerning Cultural Objects Being Offered for Sale Over the Internet" developed by UNESCO with Interpol and the International Council of Museums;

18. *Recommends* that parliaments, especially those of importing countries, advocate for a monitoring system to be established, which would relate to the movement of cultural property and which would include a system of export certificates, without which it would constitute a criminal offence for cultural property to be moved out of a country of origin or moved into another country;

19. *Also recommends* that urgent measures be adopted to prohibit imports when the heritage of a State Party is seriously threatened by intense looting of archaeological and ethnological materials;

#### **Mass tourism**

20. *Invites* parliaments to take appropriate action in order to establish a system to regulate the numbers of tourists, using a daily visitor quota with time slots, after first having determined the cultural heritage to which such a system should apply;

21. *Encourages* the more systematic establishment of protection perimeters to prevent permanent or long-term damage to the country's physical, cultural and environmental heritage;

22. *Requests* parliaments to consider the possibility of limiting the number of people visiting national museums and the most frequently visited sites, so as to both protect heritage and maintain the quality of visits;

23. *Invites* parliaments to engage in consultations with museum authorities and other authorities in charge of cultural heritage in order to ensure that they are not only pursuing economic goals, but also doing all they can to ensure the quality of visits, the protection of objects and awareness of the cultural heritage on exhibit;

24. *Also invites* parliaments to establish policy and guidelines for sustainable tourism development, which will also look into the issue of tourist guards/police among others and, in particular, language training;

#### **Population growth and urbanization**

25. *Further invites* parliaments to insist that impact assessments be systematically carried out in their respective countries wherever projects alter the environment that surrounds cultural heritage and to adopt legislative provisions aimed at establishing a protective perimeter around the most striking monuments and the creation of protected zones in neighbourhoods that stand out for their historical or esthetical character;

26. *Endeavours* to ensure respect for and enhanced recognition of cultural heritage in society, in respective educational systems and policies;

#### **Enhancing awareness**

27. *Strongly recommends* that awareness-raising efforts be made in relation to the respect for and protection of heritage in school curricula and military training programmes;

28. *Invites* parliaments to promote public awareness-raising events, such as heritage days, and to encourage all public and private initiatives that form part of the International Day for Monuments and Sites dedicated to World Heritage on 18 April;

29. *Encourages* parliaments to draft and adopt national information plans on historical heritage, including training and information activities;

30. *Invites* parliaments to promote citizen participation in the process of managing heritage in line with the strategy of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention);

31. *Requests* that parliaments insist on the implementation of preventive and protective measures when heritage is in danger in parallel with measures aimed at restoring and/or repairing of cultural property;

32. *Invites* parliaments to ensure that background information is made available to citizens on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage located in their countries;

#### **Conservation of heritage**

33. *Encourages* parliaments to do everything possible to foster and organize high-level training on the conservation and protection of cultural heritage in all its forms, and facilitate capacity-building activities for their safeguarding;

34. *Also encourages* parliaments to promote the regular maintenance of the heritage of their country;

35. *Further encourages* States to adopt legislation to protect historical monuments and the most striking buildings from a historical or architectural point of view; such legislation would make their demolition, displacement or restoration subject to authorization by the authorities responsible for the protection of historical monuments; it would also ensure that the overall management of the work is

entrusted to certified professionals based on their skills; it would authorize the administrative authority to oblige the property owner to undertake the necessary work in order to conserve the monument, in exchange for the State's participation in the restoration costs;

36. *Calls upon* parliaments to foster the development of training for technicians and experts in the conservation and restoration of tangible and intangible assets that make up cultural heritage, as well as to promote programmes, scholarships and international forums for the exchange of knowledge and discussion on topical issues related to cultural heritage;

37. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that, where large-scale restoration projects occur, they receive automatic support from networks of national and international experts, including governmental organizations, educational and research institutions, and the private sector, so that an assessment can be made of best techniques to be used;

#### **Climate change and pollution**

38. *Recommends* that consultations with experts take place, including with specialists in cultural heritage and traditional construction techniques, in order to plan for climate change and its effects on cultural heritage, as well as to include traditional knowledge and techniques in conservation plans;

39. *Also recommends* that parliaments do the needful to ensure that consultations on the impact of climate change on cultural property also take into account external factors linked to lifestyle, such as pollution, which compound the primary impacts and thus cannot be disregarded;

40. *Encourages* the establishment both of national listed heritage assessments and of potential climate-change-related risks in order to take measures to limit them;

41. *Calls for* enhanced awareness-raising activities all over the world so as to prevent harmful environmental practices in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect heritage;

#### **Nominations for world heritage lists**

42. *Encourages* efforts to raise the awareness of the authorities of each country about the potential interests of registering elements of cultural heritage located inside their borders on the UNESCO World Heritage List and therefore include, in their Tentative Lists, the names of those properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value;

43. *Urges* parliaments to do everything possible to assess whether, in accordance with the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, certain segments of heritage should benefit from higher levels of protection;

44. *Strongly urges* States to become party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) as well as the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to fully complement the set of the international standard-setting instruments dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage and diversity;

45. *Recommends* that parliaments encourage their governments to support other countries by providing them, where necessary, with assistance in training in and awareness-raising about the importance of conserving cultural property, what steps to take with regard to UNESCO and exchange of good practices related to the protection of cultural property;

46. *Also recommends* that parliaments remind their governments that registering cultural property on the UNESCO List should be motivated by objective criteria and be limited to those assets that present a real and universal heritage interest, without any concern for the geographical balance of properties between countries or continents or political considerations, without which this List would risk becoming endless and would lose its initial purpose.

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# General Assembly

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## Seventieth session

Agenda items 108 and 124

### Measures to eliminate international terrorism

#### Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

### **Note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and, on behalf of Bangladesh in its capacity as Chair of the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the resolution entitled "Terrorism: the need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights", adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 108 and 124.





**Annex to the note verbale dated 20 April 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English and French]

**Terrorism: the need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights**

**Resolution adopted by consensus on 23 March 2016 by the 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held in Lusaka**

*The 134th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,*

*Recalling* the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and Security Council on combating terrorism, in particular Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2129 (2013), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006 on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and follow-up resolutions, and the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as IPU resolutions adopted by the 116th Assembly (Nusa Dua, Bali, 2007), the 122nd Assembly (Bangkok, 2010) and the 132nd Assembly (Hanoi, 2015), all of which underscore the need for cooperation in the fight against terrorism,

*Also recalling* the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on women, peace and security, in particular resolution 2242 (2015) which recognizes "the differential impact on the human rights of women and girls of terrorism and violent extremism" and the use of sexual and gender-based violence as "a tactic of terrorism", and calls for the increased participation of women in multilateral processes on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism,

*Reaffirming* that its primary objective is to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and underscoring that any counter-terrorism measures taken must be in accordance with that Charter and international law, international human rights law, and in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as applicable,

*Noting* the absence of a universally agreed definition of terrorism at the international level,

*Considering* nevertheless that this gap should not be an obstacle to concerted action by the international community to combat terrorist activities and organizations, provided that States have at their disposal national laws containing clear and precise definitions of terrorist acts according to the definitions in international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as adopted by the UN Security Council, and punish those acts,

*Also considering* that international cooperation in combating terrorism in keeping with UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions can only be effective if parliaments adopt a series of legislative and financial measures aimed at preventing terrorism and criminalizing terrorist acts and their glorification, as well as terrorist propaganda,

*Convinced* that those measures should also make it possible to prosecute the perpetrators, accomplices and supporters of terrorist acts, prevent the movement of terrorist fighters, monitor the activities of persons suspected of terrorist activity and cut off the means of financing terrorist organizations,

*Concerned* by the possible nexus between terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as document fraud, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, the pillage of historical sites, the sale of antiquities, the looting of natural resources and money laundering,

*Also concerned* by the growing use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the Internet and social networks by terrorist organizations to exchange information, plan and carry out attacks and spread their propaganda,

*Underscoring* the need to take measures aimed at eliminating conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, some of which take root within society, such as poverty, scarce basic services, gender discrimination, social inequality and exclusion, and a sense of injustice, which provide terrorist organizations with a fertile breeding ground for recruitment, especially among young people,

*Also underscoring* that the status of children must always, and in particular in the context of terrorism, be taken into account and considered from the angle of the development and the rights of the child, as set forth in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Considering* that the implementation of social and educational measures likely to prevent the emergence of extremist behaviours that can lead individuals towards terrorism — or put an end to such behaviours — is indispensable in the fight against terrorism,

*Concerned* that individuals who have been listed globally as terrorists by the United Nations are not being prosecuted by UN Member States and are still moving around freely,

1. *Calls upon* individuals to refrain from using religion, religious heritage and culture to commit terrorist acts, as this fuels religious and cultural prejudice;

2. *Calls for* the establishment of cultural dialogue aimed at preventing extremism and combating terrorism, which would seek to reach a meeting of minds between different cultures based on intellectual and cultural insights, and to ensure coordinated global efforts to combat extremism and terrorism;

3. *Also calls for* the spreading of tolerance and moderation and underscores the need for legislative and executive actions to combat hatred, against ethnic and religious minorities in all countries, and to provide the necessary protection for places of worship, as well as due respect for holy books and religious symbols;

4. *Emphasizes* the absolute need for enhanced international cooperation and the promotion of inter-parliamentary information exchange, in order to effectively tackle terrorism and dismantle terrorist networks;

5. *Urges* parliaments to adopt measures to prevent the commission, planning and funding of any kind of terrorist act against any State, irrespective of motives;

6. *Calls for* the funding of education programmes, as well as community and civil society initiatives — in particular those benefiting youth and women’s empowerment — that are designed to avoid the development of extremist behaviour that could lead individuals to take part in terrorist acts and that are also designed to help build a culture of tolerance and peace in our societies;

7. *Also calls for* the funding of what are known as counter-narrative campaigns, designed to counteract the propaganda of terrorist organizations, including on social networks and the Internet as well as in schools and religious institutions;

8. *Strongly urges* parliaments to require providers to be responsible in their approach to the largest communication platform of our era, to facilitate notice-and-takedown procedures, to pass on patently criminal content to law enforcement agencies when that is appropriate, and after an examination of the legal issues based on the criteria of the rule of law, thus allowing effective criminal prosecution;

9. *Also urges* parliaments to exchange good practices, and legal and technical knowledge, both pre-emptively in order to fight against the radicalization of certain individuals within the population, and reactively to ensure that individuals are de-radicalized;

10. *Recommends* that criminal legislation relating to terrorist acts or activities are clearly and precisely drafted to ensure that legal proceedings and international coordination in the fight against terrorism are effective, and highlights that fundamental rights and the principles of fair criminal proceedings on the basis of due process must be guaranteed, particularly with regard to freedom of movement, freedom of conscience and religion, protection from arbitrary arrest, the right to a private life and the right to be presumed innocent;

11. *Also recommends* that criminal legislation regarding terrorist acts be applied to minors in a manner which accounts for their capacity for rehabilitation, particularly with respect to sentencing;

12. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize not only acts of terrorism, as defined by UN Security Council resolutions, but also the planning both to commit such acts and to assist or facilitate, whether by act or omission, the commission of such acts, and also to bring into their legislation an obligation to either prosecute or extradite for prosecution individuals charged with terrorist acts or activities;

13. *Considers* it essential to also criminalize the recruitment and training of terrorists and their supporters as well as the incitement to commit acts of terrorism, particularly through rallies, virtual social networks or more generally through the use of the Internet, while also ensuring that any measures taken are proportional to the threat, taking particular account of any attempts to impair freedom of expression and human rights;

14. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize the intentional development, maintenance or hosting of websites which have been identified as terrorist sites and which, directly or indirectly, intentionally support terrorist activities, as well as to criminalize the intentional downloading of documents or programmes of a terrorist nature with the aim of committing terrorist crimes;

15. *Also requests* parliaments to criminalize the act of travelling abroad, or attempting to do so, in order to commit or assist in committing a terrorist act, to

participate in, provide or receive terrorism-related training, to facilitate the movement of terrorist fighters, to recruit terrorist fighters or to train or assist in training terrorists;

16. *Strongly recommends* that legal measures be identified to stop social benefits for individuals who have gone abroad to support or become terrorist fighters;

17. *Requests* parliaments to authorize the competent authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of terrorist offences or serious crimes to collect data about airline passengers before they travel, and to place an obligation on airlines and travel agents to provide, in advance and in electronic format, information about passengers and their travel documentation;

18. *Also requests* parliaments to allow the administrative authorities to confiscate the travel documents of terrorist fighters (by temporarily withdrawing, suspending or confiscating their passports or travel documents, including for minors) or to allow any measure that enables their travel arrangements to be cancelled as a matter of urgency;

19. *Further requests* that parliaments authorize measures for their State's electronic national security system to be connected to I-24/7, the global police communications system, and to the databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and allocate the necessary funds to do so;

20. *Calls on* parliaments to review their legislation in order to prevent any financial aid or support from being provided to terrorist fighters and to criminalize the financing of terrorism;

21. *Recommends* in that regard that legal provision be made for the possibility, first, to rapidly freeze assets and bank accounts used or intended to be used by terrorists, their accomplices or supporters; second, to prohibit the transfer or raising of funds which are intended to directly or indirectly assist terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters or by terrorist organizations; and third, to facilitate information exchange on financial transactions and movements of funds between States, including through exchange protocols established either by recognized international organizations such as INTERPOL or through bilateral agreements;

22. *Notes* the need to provide States with the financial, human and legal resources to enable relevant authorities to place under surveillance terrorist organizations and persons who might commit or support terrorist acts, in order to bring to justice terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters, or to arrest them before they take action;

23. *Calls on* parliaments to promote international cooperation between security forces, intelligence services and customs and immigration authorities, including by centralizing and coordinating information exchange, authorizing the swift ratification of extradition treaties concluded between the States of origin, transit and destination of terrorist fighters, and by monitoring the effectiveness of their implementation on the basis of legally binding agreements relating to compliance with the rule of law and data protection standards, in order to prevent the abuse of immigration and asylum law for the purposes of terrorism;

24. *Requests* parliaments to develop national legislation, supported by appropriate financing, that would allow the victims of terrorist acts to exercise their

right to redress against those who have provided financial or logistical support to terrorists, as well as legislation, supported by adequate resources, that would establish a mechanism to assist and support victims, taking into account the specific needs of women and girl victims;

25. *Urges* parliaments to increase their efforts to reduce poverty; to combat discrimination against unemployed people, particularly young unemployed people, in order to ensure access to quality education for boys and girls and to basic services for all; and to combat racism as well as all forms of discrimination, particularly when based on unemployment, gender and social inequality, which provide a fertile breeding ground for the spread of terrorism;

26. *Welcomes* the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, takes note of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and encourages parliaments to ensure that it is successfully implemented, in parallel with efforts made as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16;

27. *Urges* parliaments to commit to the empowerment of women as a means of preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms, in particular by securing the full participation of women and youth in decision-making and their economic independence;

28. *Requests* the IPU to promote inter-parliamentary information exchange and cooperation, and to facilitate dialogue among practitioners and parliamentarians, by establishing a forum where parliamentarians and UN counter-terrorism-related bodies could interact, with a view to sharing, at global and regional levels, good practices on confidence-building measures that are conducive to peace, international stability and security, and ensuring women's and young people's full participation in such efforts, with due consideration for the sovereignty of each State.

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