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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE IPU IN 2013

(b) ANNUAL REPORTING EXERCISE BY MEMBERS

Reporting by IPU Members of action taken to follow up IPU resolutions, Assemblies and other initiatives

According to the Statutes of the IPU, Member Parliaments are required to send an annual report of action they have taken to follow up IPU resolutions and decisions (Article 6). They are also expected to submit a report to their national parliaments after each statutory Assembly on the work and decisions taken during the event (Article 7 of the Statutes).

Over the years, the response rate for the annual reporting exercise by IPU Member Parliaments has been consistently low, generally in the 30-40 per cent range. Moreover, very few Members transmit to the Secretariat details of their own reports submitted in parliament after each Assembly (less than 5%).

In an effort to effectively address this situation, the IPU Standing Committees have decided to play a more proactive role in improving the reporting exercise by Members and in monitoring follow-up of IPU resolutions and other decisions. The new expanded Bureaux of the four Standing Committees will be elected and will meet during the 130th IPU Assembly with a view to beginning discussions on their longer-term work programmes, which include follow-up of resolutions and other decisions.

As a basis for the discussion, a Questionnaire on Members' participation in the IPU and follow-up of resolutions was circulated to all Members in mid-2013. Although it was designed as a short (three-page), simple and user-friendly survey with multiple choice answers available for most questions, the response rate remained low. By 10 October, shortly after the close of the 129th Assembly, only 49 per cent of IPU Member Parliaments had completed the questionnaire.

Nevertheless, the available responses do provide some insights into a number of key factors which may impact directly on the kind of follow-up that IPU Assemblies, resolutions and other initiatives receive within national parliaments.

1. One of these concerns decision-making within parliament on participation in IPU activities and the composition of the decision-making body:
 - In general, it is either the Bureau of Parliament or the Inter-Parliamentary Group which takes decisions on the way in which its Parliament participates in the work and activities of the Organization.
 - In most cases, the composition of the decision-making body (National Group or Executive Committee) is based on the number of seats held in parliament by the various political factions.
 - An interesting practice exists in *Belgium*, where according to the Rules of the Group, all members of parliament belong to the National Group. However, in order to be able to play an active role in the work of the Organization or belong to a bilateral friendship group, it is

necessary to pay a symbolic subscription or membership fee, which is valid for the duration of the legislative period. In practice, each political party pays for its members, which ensures a high membership rate (currently at 97%).

- Also worth mentioning is the practice developed by the Parliament of *Myanmar*, which in July 2013 created a Joint Parliamentary Committee on the IPU, tasked with organizing participation in the IPU's work and activities and following up on the resolutions adopted.
 - In the case of several IPU Associate Members, such as the European Parliament, it is the head of the respective organization (President) who decides on its participation in the work and activities of the IPU.
2. Another significant factor relates to the composition of delegations to IPU Assemblies:
- In many situations, it is the Speaker of Parliament, as President of the Inter-Parliamentary Group, who plays a key role in establishing the composition of delegations to IPU Assemblies.
 - Almost half of the respondents indicate that a conscious effort is made to ensure gender balance and/or political diversity in the composition of their delegations to IPU Assemblies.
 - Specifically, some respondents (such as *Finland, Japan* and *Turkey*) indicate that places are allocated according to the number of seats held in parliament by the different political parties. A system of proportional representation is also applied by *New Zealand*.
 - *Ireland* reports that delegates are nominated by parliamentary whips and that membership is proportionally representative of party representation in both Houses. Moreover, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker always leads the delegation.
 - There are relatively few documented cases of how the composition of delegations also takes into consideration the agenda of the respective Assemblies. *Costa Rica* is one example of a parliament that endeavours to include MPs who are knowledgeable on the subject matters under discussion and ensure that as many members of parliament as possible are exposed to the work of the Organization by involving MPs who have not participated in an Assembly. This is also the case for *Zambia*.
 - *Sweden* has established a permanent delegation of five members, of which three are IPU office-holders and another two are appointed for their specific skills and expertise relating to the Assembly's agenda. They are members of the Riksdag's committees responsible for matters pertinent to the issues addressed by the IPU Standing Committees. The result is mutually beneficial as lessons learned are communicated both to and from the international and national arenas. The delegation to the first Assembly of the year is headed by one the Riksdag's three Deputy Speakers on a rotational basis.
 - In the case of the *United Kingdom*, delegation members are selected from among the British Inter-Parliamentary Group. Other members of the Parliament may apply to join the UK delegation based on their interests and expertise in the various issues on the Assembly agenda, with a final selection carried out by the Group itself.
 - In many cases, a conscious effort is made to include IPU office-holders (Bureau and Committee members, etc.) in the national delegations, even when these are representatives of opposition parties.
3. One of the survey questions deals with how the IPU's work and decisions are shared with the parliament, government and public:
- In general, governments and parliaments are informed of the outcome of IPU meetings through annual reports or delegations' post-Assembly reports.
 - In addition, some parliaments organize a plenary session devoted to the presentation of the annual report in the presence of members of the government (*Andorra, Costa Rica, Luxembourg* and *Zambia*).

- Some parliaments, such as in the case of *Finland*, specifically request that the government submit its own report on IPU resolutions and their impact.
 - Other Members, for example *Germany*, ensure that the resolutions are translated into the national language and circulated together with the delegation's reports, while others, such as *Italy*, publish the results of IPU Assemblies on the Parliament's website.
 - In *Costa Rica*, the Committee on International Relations and Foreign Trade is the body that oversees the parliament's participation in the IPU. It distributes IPU resolutions to the parliament's Bureau, specialized Committees and departments according to subject matter.
 - In *Romania*, parliament is informed of the outcome of IPU meetings in a variety of ways, such as dedicated sections/press communiqués on the Senate and Chamber of Deputies' websites; the Romanian IPU Group's Information Bulletin (published twice a year); statements to the Plenum by delegation members; and briefings by individual MPs within their respective political parliamentary groups.
 - Reports on all IPU activities in which the National Assembly of *Serbia* has participated, together with resolutions and conclusions, are submitted to and approved by the Committee on Foreign Affairs and/or other relevant Committees. These documents are also distributed to all members of parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as to other relevant Ministries for them to take follow-up action within their respective purviews.
 - The *Swedish* Parliament issues press releases with quotes from IPU delegates (plus photos and web links to resolutions) before and after each IPU Assembly in order to inform the media and the public about the important work of the Organization. The IPU delegation also reports yearly to the Board of the Riksdag. Recently, the Riksdag has started to share the report with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, after which a debate in the Chamber usually ensues.
 - In the *Netherlands*, resolutions of the IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians are often mentioned in debates and hearings in the House, in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.
4. The survey included a question on the forms of parliamentary action taken to follow-up IPU resolutions. It is notable that over 40 per cent of respondents indicate that **no specific follow-up action is taken on IPU resolutions and other decisions**.
- In cases where action is taken, it is often individual MPs who carry out initiatives to influence and amend legislation (specific examples provided by *Mexico, Norway, Romania, Switzerland* and others).
 - As underscored in the response from *Poland*, while there is no directly verifiable impact of IPU resolutions on the legislative action of parliament, IPU reports and resolutions, as well as participation in IPU Assemblies, do influence views and actions of MPs - especially on human rights and gender issues.
 - IPU resolutions and other decisions can also inspire practical activities within Parliament. The British Inter-Parliamentary Group, for example, conducts a varied programme throughout the year, which includes briefings, seminars or conferences (with the participation of MPs, All-Party Groups, government officials and NGOs) on issues taken up by the IPU such as the rights of persons with disabilities, drug policy reform, gender-sensitive parliaments, etc. The *Swedish* Parliament also organizes seminars on IPU-relevant topics.
 - One global IPU initiative that is repeatedly invoked is the launch of the International Day of Democracy (15 September). Many parliaments have embraced this Day and annually organize events to mark it: open doors, public hearings, parliamentary debates and communiqués, road shows and radio programmes, etc. For an overview of parliaments and the International Democracy Day, see: <http://www.ipu.org/dem-e/idd/overview.htm>
 - A few parliaments report on their IPU-related outreach to the mass media and the public. In *Luxembourg*, for example, IPU work is systematically mentioned in MPs' written reports, which are disseminated to the wider public through the country's four major newspapers.

Press releases with quotes from *Swedish* IPU delegates (plus photos and web links to resolutions) are sent out before and after each IPU Assembly in order to inform the media and the public about the important work of the IPU. The *British* Group regularly holds awareness-raising events on the work of the Organization, in cooperation with All-Party Groups and the relevant Ministries.

- Several parliaments, such as those of *Belgium, Monaco, Republic of Korea* and *Romania*, describe how they ensure that information on the IPU's work is published on their parliaments' websites.

Above all, of particular interest are the specific examples provided by close to 30 parliaments of specific follow-up action on IPU resolutions, reports and other initiatives. Such parliamentary action has resulted in new and amended legislation, measures to promote gender equality and more gender-sensitive parliaments, and generally stronger and more effective legislatures, including in terms of enhanced parliamentary oversight of the Executive. These examples may be of interest to the broader membership. They are presented in Annex 1 and may provide guidance to the Standing Committee Bureaux on how to further enhance implementation of the resolutions adopted by IPU Members.

The joint meeting of Standing Committee Bureaux may also wish to examine how IPU-related work is conducted in Member Parliaments in the course of the year. Most respondents have indicated that the body responsible for IPU activities (national group, bureau or permanent delegation) meets once or twice a year, in connection with IPU statutory Assemblies. One very noteworthy practice prevails in *Sweden*, where the permanent IPU delegation holds approximately 10 to 15 working meetings during the year (more frequently scheduled in the run-up to Assemblies). The reports and draft resolutions are carefully studied and discussed within the delegation and with experts in the respective fields, which often results in the formulation of suggested amendments to the draft resolutions.

Importantly, the Riksdag also sets time aside to publicize the work of the IPU, disseminate the Results of the Assemblies and evaluate follow-up. As occurs in other parliaments such as those of *Belgium* and the *United Kingdom*, in *Sweden* the IPU delegation organizes seminars and round-table discussions on topics that are relevant to both the IPU and the national parliament. These activities help spread good practices more broadly within parliament and civil society. They also contribute to fruitful cross-fertilization at both the national and international levels, which in turn can lead to positive change and constructive initiatives.

SUCCINCTLY DESCRIBE ONE EXAMPLE OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTION IN FOLLOW UP TO AN IPU RESOLUTION OR STUDY AND THE IMPACT OF THIS ACTION

Country	Resolution	Action - Impact and outcomes
Afghanistan	<p><i>The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy.</i> Resolution (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</p> <p><i>International Day of Democracy</i> IPU-UN initiative launched in 2008</p>	<p>The resolution served as a basis for discussions between MPs and representatives of electronic and print media, aimed at enhancing citizen engagement in the political process. Consultations are ongoing.</p> <p>The House of Elders (Upper House) issued a declaration to commemorate the Day in 2009.</p>
Andorra	<p><i>Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments</i> (127th Assembly, Quebec City, 2012)</p>	<p>A group of women MPs, including the Deputy Speaker, proposed that a formal Group on Gender be established in the Parliament of Andorra. The Group, open to all MPs (both women and men) was formally established in February. One of the Group's objectives is to formulate a national plan drawing inspiration from the IPU Plan of Action in a bid to make the parliament a more gender-sensitive institution.</p>
Austria	<p><i>Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns</i> Resolution (124th Assembly, Panama, 2011)</p>	<p>The resolution was useful in the context of discussions in parliament on draft laws regarding party financing and lobbying, which were then adopted in 2012. The new legislation includes inter alia limits to funds spent on election campaigns, caps on anonymous donations, a stricter register for all lobbyists, and banning public officials from engaging in paid lobbying due to a potential conflict of interest. New rules on greater transparency of additional income of the Members of the Austrian Parliament were also passed.</p>
Belgium	<p><i>Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments</i> (127th Assembly, Quebec City, 2012)</p>	<p>At the initiative of the Speaker of the Senate and the Bureau of the Belgian Inter-Parliamentary Group, the <i>Plan of Action</i> was placed on the agenda of the Senate Advisory Committee for equal rights between men and women. The Committee decided to pilot a self-assessment exercise in this area, foreseen for autumn 2013. The corresponding Committee in the House of Representatives may join this initiative.</p>
Botswana	<p><i>Facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance</i> (Model Act, launched at the 128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</p>	<p>Previous IPU resolutions had contributed to the establishment of a Climate Change Committee in the Parliament of Botswana. The Model Law was brought for discussion in Parliament. Further to consultations with Botswana Red Cross, an agreement was reached on cooperation in amending existing legislation governing national disaster laws.</p>

Country	Resolution	Action - Impact and outcomes
		<p>The Red Cross will also be working closely with the Climate Change Committee and the Health, HIV/AIDS Portfolio Committees once amendments are ready to be submitted to the House.</p>
Cyprus	<p><i>The security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria</i> (Emergency item resolution, 128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</p>	<p>The resolution was brought before the House Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs, together with relevant texts adopted by other parliamentary organizations. The Foreign Minister was invited to participate in the meeting and field questions from MPs.</p>
India	<p><i>Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children</i> Resolution (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012)</p>	<p>Following the adoption of the resolution, the Department of Health and Family Welfare has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at improving inter alia maternal and child health in India. The 12th Five-Year Plan Strategy on Health foresees the expansion of public health care coverage through free maternal health services. This includes antenatal check-ups, free investigations, iron and folic acid supplementation, post-natal care, safe abortion services and treatment for reproductive tract infections and sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p>One recent initiative (JSSK) guarantees free delivery, including by caesarean section, in public health facilities, free transportation, drugs, consumables and similar guarantees for sick newborns. Free child health care services include home-based newborn care, facility-based newborn care, nutritional rehabilitation, child health screening and early intervention services. India's universal immunization programme guarantees free vaccination for children against seven diseases and free vaccination for pregnant women. Total government expenditure on the health sector is expected to increase from 1.94% of GDP to 3.04%.</p> <p>In a bid to specifically reduce the under-five mortality rate, the Department of Health is setting up special newborn care units at district hospitals and medical colleges with round-the-clock services and trained medical personnel. In addition, newborn stabilization units are being established at community health centres. In parallel, newborn baby care corners are being created in all facilities where deliveries take place.</p> <p>The Department is also seeking to build the capacity of health care personnel through training for doctors and nurses on early diagnosis and case management of common ailments in children. Another recent initiative (JSY) seeks to promote institutional delivery by skilled birth attendants. This is seen as key to reducing both maternal and infant mortality.</p>

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		<p>As malnutrition reduces children’s resistance to infections, thus increasing morbidity and mortality rates, a nationwide malnutrition management programme has been put in place. A total of 693 nutritional rehabilitation centres have been established to manage acute malnutrition in children. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is also promoting exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months as well as appropriate infant and child feeding practices to combat malnutrition. Iron and folic acid are provided to children with a view to preventing anaemia. In rural communities, village health and nutrition days are being organized to impart nutritional counselling to mothers.</p> <p>An innovative measure adopted in India is a name-based mother and child tracking system. This has been set up to ensure registration and tracking of all pregnant women and newborns so as to guarantee them regular and integrated services.</p>
Indonesia	<p><i>Providing a sound legislative framework aimed at preventing electoral violence, improving election monitoring and ensuring the smooth transition of power</i> Resolution (124th Assembly, Panama, 2011)</p>	<p>The 2011 IPU resolution contributed to deliberations in the Indonesian Parliament on electoral reform. New legislation was adopted in 2012, which provided for a more inclusive composition of both the General Election Committee and the General Election Monitoring Body.</p>
Ireland	<p><i>Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns</i> Resolution (124th Assembly, Panama, 2011)</p>	<p>The Parliament of Ireland reported that Part 6 of the Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 provides that political parties will face a cut of half of their State funding received under the Electoral Act 1997 if they do not have at least 30% women and 30% men candidates at the next general election (2016).</p> <p>Seven years from the general election where this provision first applies, the Act makes provision for this figure to rise to 40% in respect of each gender, commencing at the general election held next after that.</p>
Israel	<p><i>Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments</i> (127th Assembly, Quebec City, 2012)</p>	<p>The Knesset has enacted laws giving higher funding to parties whose lists comprise more than one third women candidates.</p>
Japan	<p><i>The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy,</i> Resolution (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</p>	<p>An amendment bill of the Public Offices Election Act, which intends to lift the ban on online election campaigning and enable candidates to use Facebook, Twitter, and other social media, was submitted by members and enacted in April 2013.</p> <p>The first national election after the revision took place in July 2013 (House of Councillors) and attracted wide public attention.</p>

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Jordan	<i>The role of parliaments in addressing the security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria and in bringing pressure to bear on their governments to assume their international and humanitarian responsibility towards Syrian refugees and to support the neighbouring countries that receive them, Resolution (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</i>	As a follow-up to this resolution, in June 2013, an IPU mission visited Jordan, including the Syrian refugee camp at Zaatari. The mission also met with the Prime Minister, Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, as well as the Interior Minister of Jordan.
Latvia	<i>Youth participation in the democratic process Resolution (122nd Assembly, Bangkok, 2010)</i>	The resolution helped inform the work of the Youth Parliament: the new body closely emulated the routine of the Saeima (Parliament) and the legislative process taking place in committee meetings and plenary sittings. Members of the Youth Parliament drafted four declarations concerning education, the economy, youth participation and European Union issues. All of these declarations are submitted for evaluation to MPs and youth organizations.
	<i>Transparency and accountability in the funding of political parties and election campaigns Resolution (124th Assembly, Panama, 2011)</i>	The Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau now requires donors and payers of membership and entrance fees to provide information about their income, cash savings, debt or assets, as well as documentation detailing sources of financing. If established requirements for gifts, donations and fees are not met, the Bureau may decide to transfer financial resources and property to the State budget or State-owned property.
	<i>The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy Resolution (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</i>	Electronically-signed Collective Submissions (at least 10,000 Latvian citizens over the age of 16) are now receivable by the Saeima. Signatures can be collected electronically, as long as the possibility to identify signatories and protect personal data is ensured. The Collective Submission must contain a request to the Saeima and a brief justification of the request; it must also specify the natural person authorised to represent the signatories of the collective submission.
Lithuania	<i>The use of media, including social media, to enhance citizen engagement and democracy Resolution (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</i>	The resolution was sent to the Committee on Education, Science and Culture and to the Department of Communication, with the request that it be taken into consideration when developing the Parliament's communication strategy.

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Malawi	<i>International Day of Democracy</i> IPU-UN initiative launched in 2008	The Malawi National Assembly has commemorated the Day annually, through public functions presided over by the Speaker of Parliament in different regions and venues as one strategic way of taking parliament to the people.
Mexico	<i>The right to identity: Promoting universal birth registration in Latin America and the Caribbean</i> Parliamentary workshop (Lima, June 2013)	Following the IPU workshop, two Senators submitted draft amendments to the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and to the Federal Civil Code. These stipulate that all newborns shall be given a first name, carry the name of both parents and be registered immediately in the Civil Registry.
Mongolia	<i>Freedom of expression and the right to information</i> Resolution (120 th Assembly, Addis Ababa, 2009)	The Law on Freedom of the Press was amended and a Law on the Right to Information was passed.
	<i>The role of parliaments in ensuring sustainable development through the management of natural resources, agricultural production and demographic change</i> Resolution (124 th Assembly, Panama, 2011)	A Human Development Fund and the National Wealth Fund were established with the profits and revenues from the exploitation of natural resources. For the third year running, the Agriculture Development Programme has been in operation.
Niger	<i>Taking action against VIH and AIDS</i> Handbook for Parliamentarians (2007)	Good practices and model legislation identified in the IPU study were taken into consideration during proceedings to amend legislation relating to the prevention, treatment and control of HIV/AIDS.
Norway	<i>Cooperation and shared responsibility in the fight against organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, illegal arms sales, trafficking in persons and cross-border terrorism</i> Resolution (122 nd Assembly, Bangkok, 2010)	Trafficking has been discussed at various IPU meetings, which prompted the IPU delegation, in May 2011, to hold a meeting on trafficking issues that was open to all MPs.
Peru	<i>International Day of Democracy</i> IPU-UN initiative launched in 2008	As recommended by the IPU, every year the Parliament of Peru marks the International Day of Democracy through public debates, conferences and the adoption of a motion on the Day.
Qatar	<i>IPU Strategy for 2012 - 2017</i>	The Advisory Council held a number of meetings to discuss the three strategic directions and the new Mission Statement of the Organization in order to identify the relevant resources and priorities to translate these strategies into short and long term action plans.

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Republic of Korea	<i>International Day of Democracy</i> IPU-UN initiative launched in 2008	Every year the National Assembly celebrates the International Day of Democracy and publishes an official statement by the Speaker
Romania	<i>Freedom of expression and the right to information</i> Resolution (120 th Assembly, Addis Ababa, 2009)	The Romanian Parliament adopted new legislation (96/2010) regulating the National Press Agency AGERPRESS. In a bid to strengthen the status of the National Press Agency (a public institution placed under the control of Parliament), changes were made in various areas, including: the diversification of the Agency's range of activities; the nomination and mandate of the General Director; and new modalities for financing the Agency. These allow for better access to news flows by central and local public institutions and authorities.
	<i>Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliaments in safeguarding civilians' lives</i> Resolution (128 th Assembly, Quito, 2013)	Adoption of <i>Law 177/2013 instituting the Day of International Humanitarian Law – 14 May</i> (the day in 1954 when Romania ratified the four Geneva Conventions. The law stipulates that cultural, scientific and educational events shall be organized on/around 14 May with a view to promoting and raising awareness of international humanitarian law. Revision (2013) of <i>Law 122/2006 on Asylum in Romania</i> was aimed at updating the legislation on asylum by taking into account the EU regulations on temporary humanitarian protection.
	<i>Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children</i> Resolution (126 th Assembly, Kampala, 2012)	Adoption of <i>Law 197/2012 on quality assurance in the field of social services</i> aimed at enhancing support for vulnerable persons. Its provisions are applicable to all social services and service providers working in Romania, both public and private. Revision (2013) of <i>Law 151/2010 on integrated specialized services in the areas of health, education and social assistance, for persons affected by autism and associated mental health disorders</i> . The purpose of this revision is to better meet the needs - through specialized services and therapies - of children affected by autism and related mental disorders, as well as those of their parents acting as caregivers. In May 2013, a Partnership Agreement was signed between the Chamber of Deputies and UNICEF Romania. Among other things, the Agreement foresees: - the establishment of a parliamentary <i>Sub-Committee for the rights of the child</i> , which will ensure that all legislation is in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and promotes the child's best interest;

Country	Resolution	Action - Impact and outcomes
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the establishment of a <i>Team for Children</i> (to include MPs, government officials, representatives of NGOs, academia and UNICEF), which will conduct studies and make recommendations that will subsequently be translated into policies and legislation aimed at improving the situation of children in Romania; - the organization of joint events, under the patronage of the Chamber of Deputies, in support of UNICEF initiatives (e.g. the official launching of the <i>State of the World's Children Report 2013</i>, which took place on 5 June 2013 in the context of the International Children's Day).
Sao Tomé and Príncipe	<p><i>Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments</i> (127th Assembly, Quebec City, 2012)</p> <p><i>Violence against women</i> IPU Statement (128th Assembly, Quito, 2013)</p>	<p>A new law has been adopted which introduces a quota for the participation of women in parliamentary activities. As a result, there are now more women participating in parliamentary activities and, in general, greater attention is being paid to the promotion of children's and women's rights. A draft <i>Law on Domestic Violence</i> has also been introduced in Parliament.</p>
Switzerland	<p><i>Stateless persons</i> Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees at the 113th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 2005)</p>	<p>Each member of the delegation may follow up IPU resolutions through his/her parliamentary interventions. For example, after the presentation of the dramatic situation of stateless persons in an address by UNHCR at the 2005 IPU Assembly, Swiss MP. Paul Günter requested that the Federal Council examine the possibility of Switzerland joining the 1961 <i>Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</i> and present a report on the matter. Although the Convention had initially been sidelined, the entry into force of Article 30 of the law on nationality on 1 January 2006 had given rise to a new situation. In fact, its provisions stipulate that any stateless minor may submit a request for facilitated naturalization as long as he/she has resided at least five years in Switzerland. Given the fact that a key obstacle to joining the Convention seemed to have thus been removed, Switzerland's position deserved to be reviewed in the light of this new development. A report on the matter raised by this underlying principle is the premise on which the decision for Switzerland to join the Convention is based. On 10 March 2006, the Federal Council agreed to accept the principle.</p>
Uganda	<p><i>Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children</i> Resolution (126th Assembly, Kampala, 2012)</p>	<p>Following the adoption of the resolution, the Parliament of Uganda, in collaboration with the IPU, has organized seminars/workshop on prevention of maternal deaths. The Parliament has also requested and obtained an increase in the annual budget allocations for child and maternal health in Uganda.</p>

Country	Resolution	Action - Impact and outcomes
United Kingdom	<i>Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments</i> Resolution (127 th Assembly, Quebec, 2011)	The IPU's work on gender-sensitive parliaments has been directly taken up by the UK Parliament e.g. by holding a parliamentary conference on Gender and Politics in 2012 and encouraging its gender committee to mirror its work in line with the IPU's work on gender-sensitive parliaments.
Zambia	<i>Violence against women</i> Outcome document, Parliamentary meeting at the 57 th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 2013) IPU Statement (128 th Assembly, Quito, 2013)	Zambia has adopted legislation aimed at combating all forms of gender-based violence. This legislation has been translated into the country's seven official languages. The Ministry of Gender and Child Development has engaged civil society, other ministries, NGOs and the media to organize workshops and raise awareness nationwide.
Arab Parliament	<i>The security and humanitarian impact of the crisis in Syria</i> Resolution (126 th Assembly, Kampala 2012) Emergency item (128 th Assembly, Quito, 2013)	Further to the IPU resolutions adopted in 2012 and 2013, the Arab Parliament dispatched a delegation to Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey to provide humanitarian aid.