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108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference

The proceedings of the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference began at the *Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales* in Santiago de Chile on the morning of Monday, 7 April, with the election by acclamation of Mr. Andrés Zaldivar Larraín, President of the Senate of Chile, as President of the Conference.

During the morning sitting, the Conference heard an address by Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in which he referred to the development goals of the Millennium Summit. Reaching these goals would radically improve the everyday existence of the common citizen. He underlined the role of parliaments in that field, stressing that they should press their governments to live up to their promises. He drew attention to the United Nations Millennium Campaign, and welcomed the fact that parliaments had begun to debate such issues. He expressed the hope that a new and far-reaching political commitment would emerge from the parliamentarians' efforts. Human development could only succeed if democracy and growth were seen as two sides of the same coin.

In the afternoon of Tuesday, 8 April, during the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, the Conference heard an address by the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Soledad Alvear.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs emphasised that the management of political, economic, social and cultural affairs had become internationalised and that multilateral parliamentary work allowed the voice of the people to be heard and enabled dialogue to be promoted for the sake of a better and more secure world. At times of crisis, the message of the Inter-Parliamentary Union could help to re-establish the international consensus essential to achievement of the shared objectives of peace, security and progress for all countries. She also stated that economic and political globalisation had its advantages but the international community should adopt rules to organise the new international system. The United Nations and its specialised agencies represented the ethical basis which would allow that task to be achieved. The Millennium Summit had laid down the objective of giving priority in international relations to freedom, equality, solidarity, and the protection of the environment. The present crisis affecting the international community had been a source of concern in Chile about the immediate and future

consequences. Chilean diplomacy had made every effort until the very last moment to avoid the conflict, and disappointment at having failed to secure a multilateral response was sorely felt. Multilateralism represented the space where an international order could be built which afforded protection of the interests of governments and of the people. To foster legitimate measures from the ethical and legal angle, a constant dialogue was needed to which parliamentarians should contribute.

1. Inaugural Ceremony

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference was inaugurated on 6 April at a ceremony in the *Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales* in the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Chile Mr. Ricardo Lagos Escobar. Inaugural addresses were delivered by Mr. Andrés Zaldivar Larraín, President of the Senate of Chile, Mr. Juan Antonio Ocampo, Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. Sergio Páez, President of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The ceremony concluded with an address by His Excellency the President of the Republic, who declared the 108th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union officially open.

2. Participation

Delegations of the Parliaments of the following 115 countries took part in the work of the Conference:¹ Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger,

¹ For the complete list of IPU membership, see page 19.

Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

The following Associate Members also took part in the Conference: the Andean Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament.

Observers included representatives of: (i) Palestine; (ii) United Nations system: United Nations, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO); (iii) International Organization for Migrations (IOM), League of Arab States, African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU), Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas, European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), Interparliamentary Association of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, Parliamentary Union of the OIC States (PUOICM); (iv) Amnesty International, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Of the total of 1,201 delegates who attended the Conference, 579 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 26 presiding officers of parliament, 33 deputy presiding officers and 147 women parliamentarians (25%).

3. Choice of a Supplementary Item

The Conference had before it four requests for the inclusion of a supplementary item presented within the statutory deadline by the delegations of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Italy and Hungary.

At the beginning of the consideration of this item, the President announced that the delegations of Japan and Hungary had decided to merge their proposals and present their subject under the following wording: *Importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and of missiles, including the prevention of their use by terrorists.*

The delegation of Italy took the floor to withdraw its proposal.

Two proposals remained for consideration by the Conference, one presented by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was amended in its original title to read *A call by parliamentarians to support a collaboration for peace*, and the merged proposal from the delegations of Japan and Hungary.

Following statements by the authors of the two proposals, a vote was taken by roll call with the following outcome:

- The item proposed by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran: 763 votes to 324, with 256 abstentions (see page 27 for details of the vote);
- The item proposed by the delegations of Japan and Hungary: 776 votes to 330, with 237 abstentions (see page 28 for details of the vote).

The proposal of the Parliaments of Japan and Hungary, having received both the necessary two-thirds majority and the highest number of affirmative votes, was added to the agenda as item 7 (see 5(d) below).

4. Choice of an Emergency Supplementary Item

The Conference had various proposals before it and decided on the first day to allow time for negotiations. At the end of its Tuesday morning sitting, the Conference was informed that the four original proposals presented by Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia and Argentina had been merged into one item, as follows: *The need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to re-establish peace: the role of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.*

The Conference was also informed that the delegation of the United Kingdom had withdrawn its proposal, and that the delegation of Portugal, supported by Australia, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United Kingdom had

submitted the following proposal: *The ending of the conflict in Iraq, the role of the United Nations and the international community in assisting the people of Iraq in their future political, economic and social development; support for humanitarian efforts to relieve the suffering of the Iraqi people and the role of the IPU in supporting the development of democratic institutions.*

The Conference therefore had before it two proposals. Following statements by their authors, a vote was taken by roll call with the following outcome:

- The item proposed by the delegations of Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Sudan: 1,095 votes to 215, with 105 abstentions (see page 32 for details of the vote);
- The item proposed by the delegations of Portugal and supported by Australia, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United Kingdom, 430 votes to 694, with 289 abstentions (see page 33 for details of the vote).

The proposal of Argentina, Egypt, Indonesia and Sudan, having received the required four-fifths majority, was added to the agenda as item 8 (see 5(e) below).

5. Proceedings and Decisions of the Conference and its Study Committees

(a) General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world (Item 3)

The General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world took place in the morning and afternoon of Monday, 7 April, in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday, 8 April, in the afternoon of Wednesday, 9 April and in the morning of Thursday, 10 April. A total of 119 speakers from 103 delegations took part in the debate, which was chaired by the President of the Conference. During the various sittings, the President invited the Vice-Presidents from the delegations of Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Croatia, Ethiopia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, and Singapore to replace him in the Chair.

(b) Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world (Item 4)

This item was considered on 8 and 10 April by the Second Study Committee (Parliamentary, Juridical

and Human Rights Questions), that met in two sittings with its President, Ms. B. Mugo (Kenya) in the Chair. The Committee had before it ten memoranda submitted by the delegations of Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, India, Poland, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, along with three information documents submitted by the IPU Secretariat, the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme. It also had before it 16 draft resolutions submitted by the delegations of Australia, Canada, Congo, Cuba, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, as well as elements for two draft resolutions, one submitted jointly by Bangladesh, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Sudan and Zambia, and the other by Sweden.

A total of 63 speakers took the floor during the two sittings. The Committee also heard statements from the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Under-Secretary General for the Least Developed Countries. Following the debate on the item, the Committee appointed a drafting committee composed of representatives from Australia, Canada, France, Guinea, Kenya, Netherlands, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, United Kingdom and Venezuela.

The drafting committee met on 9 April and began its work by electing Ms. B. Prentice (United Kingdom) as Chairperson and Ms. G. M. Borman (South Africa) as Rapporteur. In preparing the draft resolution, it took into consideration all the 18 draft resolutions that had been submitted.

On 10 April, the Second Committee considered the draft resolution prepared by the drafting committee. After making a number of amendments and additions, it adopted the draft unanimously.

On 11 April, the draft resolution was adopted unanimously by the Conference as proposed by the Second Committee (see page 20 for the text of the resolution).

(c) International cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned (Item 5)

This item was considered on 9 and 11 April by the Third Committee (Economic and Social Questions), which met with its Vice-President, Mr. J.-K. Yoo (Republic of Korea), in the Chair. The Committee

had before it 13 memoranda submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Congo, Egypt, France, Hungary, Japan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; two information documents prepared respectively by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; and 18 draft resolutions submitted by Australia, Canada, Chile, Congo, Cuba, Germany, France, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, United Kingdom, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, including one draft resolution submitted jointly by Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czech Republic, and elements for a draft resolution submitted by Sweden.

A total of 49 speakers from 42 countries and one international organisation participated in the debate that took place in the Third Committee on 9 April. It is noteworthy that nearly one third of speakers were women. The Committee appointed a drafting committee comprising representatives of parliaments of the following 11 countries: Australia, Belgium, Congo, Greece, India, Japan, Mexico, Niger, Romania, South Africa and Uganda. Special mention should be made of the fact that six members of the drafting committee were women parliamentarians. A representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated in the work of the drafting committee as an adviser.

The drafting committee, after electing Mr. G. Chapman (Australia) as Chairperson and Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda) as Rapporteur, met on the morning of 10 April. In preparing the consolidated draft, the Committee used the ideas contained in all of the drafts at its disposal, but drew in particular on the one presented jointly by the group of four Central European countries (Hungary, Poland, Romania and Czech Republic) and the one presented by Australia. The resulting consolidated draft was adopted without a vote.

On the morning of 11 April, the Third Committee examined the text submitted to it by the drafting committee and unanimously decided to adopt it in its entirety.

On the afternoon of 11 April, Ms. R. Kadaga submitted the Third Committee's draft resolution to the 108th Conference, which adopted it unanimously (see page 24 for the text of the resolution).

(d) Importance of the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction and of missiles, including the prevention of their use by terrorists (Item 7)

Having decided to add this item to its agenda as a supplementary item, the Conference referred it to the First Study Committee (Political Questions, International Security and Disarmament).

The Committee held two sittings, on 9 and 11 April, with its Vice-President, Ms. E. Papadimitriou (Greece), in the Chair for the first sitting, and its President, Mr. A.H. Hanadzlah (Malaysia), in the Chair for the second sitting. The Committee had before it four texts: elements for a draft resolution submitted, on the one hand, by the Group of Hungary and, on the other hand, by the Group of Sweden, and two draft resolutions submitted by the Groups of Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also had before it an information document submitted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

During the debate on the item at the Committee's sitting of 9 April, 24 speakers took the floor. The Committee then appointed a drafting committee comprising representatives of parliaments of the following countries: Algeria, Chile, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, Sweden and Switzerland. The drafting committee met on the following day (10 April) and began its work by electing Mr. P. Günter (Switzerland) as Chairperson and Ms. E. Yamatani (Japan) as Rapporteur. The Algerian representative then stated that he would not take part in the work of the drafting committee as he had been designated without his knowledge. The drafting committee took note of his withdrawal. The Chairperson then drew the members' attention to IPU practice whereby draft resolutions to be prepared on general topics should favour the broadest possible consensus; in the case at hand, that implied that it was preferable to refrain from referring to specific situations or countries. Once that clarification had been made, the drafting committee took the text submitted by the Group of Hungary as a basis for its work, supplementing the draft with parts of the other draft resolutions as well as proposals put forward by members of the drafting committee. The Committee performed its work in a spirit of consensus. The resulting consolidated text was then adopted by five votes to zero, with one abstention.

On the morning of 11 April, the First Committee examined the text, introducing two amendments:

one to clarify the wording of a paragraph, and the other to encourage the Union's Members that had not yet done so to ratify the international instruments mentioned in the draft resolution. It then adopted the draft unanimously.

On the afternoon of 11 April, the Conference, after having heard the report of Ms. Yamatani, unanimously adopted the draft resolution (see page 29 for the text of the resolution).

- (e) The need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to re-establish peace: the role of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (Item 8)

On Tuesday, 8 April, the Conference decided to include this topic on its agenda under an emergency supplementary item. It then decided to refer it to a drafting committee set up by the Conference Steering Committee.

The drafting committee appointed Ms. T. Yaryguina (Russian Federation) as its Chairperson. It was composed of representatives of the delegations of Algeria, Australia, Chile, France, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Russian Federation, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, and Ms. G. Mahlangu (South Africa), representing the Meeting of Women

Parliamentarians. Mr. A. Lie (Indonesia) was nominated as Rapporteur to the Conference. The drafting committee met in the afternoon of Tuesday, 8 April and in the morning and evening of Wednesday, 9 April. At its final sitting, it adopted a draft resolution by consensus.

During the morning session of Thursday, 10 April, the draft resolution was adopted by consensus by the Conference. After adoption, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed a reservation to the effect that it would have preferred the resolution to state that the war in Iraq had no legal foundation (see page 34 for the text of the resolution).

6. Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the Conference

During the last sitting of the Conference on Friday, 11 April, and in keeping with Article 27.3 of the Statutes, the Conference unanimously approved the proposal to modify the Statutes following the favourable opinion expressed by the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. On the same occasion, the Conference adopted the amendments to its own Rules.

172nd Session of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held its 172nd session in the *Centro de Convenciones Diego Portales* on 7, 9 and 12 April 2003. The sittings were chaired by the President of the Council, Mr. S. Páez.

The opening sitting began with a minute of silence to mark the untimely passing of Mr. S. Almansury (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), a member of the Executive Committee.

The sitting on 9 April was devoted to the reform of the IPU, the approval of the amended Statutes and Rules, and the choice of subject items for the 109th Assembly.

The Council noted the report by Mr. Páez on his activities and meetings since the end of the 171st session in September 2002. It also noted an oral report by the President on the activities of the Executive Committee during its 239th (Geneva) session and 240th (Santiago) session (see page 10). The Council also took note of the written report of the Secretary General on the activities of the Union in 2002.

1. Membership of the IPU

The Council approved a request for affiliation from the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia after hearing a report by the Executive Committee rapporteur on the question, Mr. R. Salles (France). It also approved a request for reaffiliation from the National Assembly of Pakistan. It decided to suspend the Parliament of the Central African Republic after a coup d'état which had seen the dissolution of the parliament. It deferred discussion of the situation of the seven Members that fell under the terms of Article 4.2 of the Statutes to the 173rd session of the Governing Council in October.

2. Financial Results for 2002

Mr. O.R. Rodgers (Suriname), one of the Internal Auditors, presented the audited financial statements for 2002, along with his comments on the financial administration of the Union based upon his communication with the external auditor. For the first time, the accounts were presented on a full accrual basis, which had resulted in a

downwards adjustment of the Working Capital Fund balance by 7.3 million Swiss francs. The Union had an operating surplus of 424,000 Swiss francs in 2002 due to a substantial reduction in spending. Some changes were proposed to administrative procedures including a greater involvement of the Internal Auditor in the oversight of financial operations.

The Council applauded the Secretary General for the financial administration of the Union, in particular for the fiscal control demonstrated by an operating surplus, a realistic approach to receivables and liabilities, and transparent and detailed financial statements. Several members spoke to encourage further changes in financial administration, including a more consistent approach to employment contracts and more rigorous purchasing procedures.

The Council approved the financial statements, approved the transfer of the operating surplus to the Working Capital Fund, agreed to use the Randal Cremer Fund to reduce the cost of the new headquarters, and sanctioned the financial administration of the Union.

3. Reform of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Statutory Amendments

The IPU has been involved in an active reform process ever since the reform debate was initiated by the Executive Committee in Amman in April 2000. In Santiago, the final stage of a lengthy procedure was completed when the Conference adopted all of the amendments proposed to the Union's Statutes and Rules on the recommendation of the Council, including amendments to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians that were not directly related to the reforms. The Geneva statutory meetings scheduled for October 2003 will thus be the first to take place under the reformed structures.

The statutory amendments were presented to the Council by the Executive Committee rapporteur on reform, Ms. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala), at a special sitting on 9 April. After approving the amendments to its own Rules, to the Rules of the Study Committees, to the Financial Regulations and to the Rules of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Council discussed the sub-amendments submitted within the statutory deadline and endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendations on them.

In keeping with the requirements of the amended Statutes, the Council elected the bureaux of the

three new Standing Committees on Peace and International Security, on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, and on Democracy and Human Rights. It also elected the two rapporteurs for each of these Committees. Given the mandates of the new Committees, it decided to discontinue the existing Committee on Sustainable Development and agreed that the Committee on International Humanitarian Law would be made up of the members of the bureau of the new Committee on Peace and International Security. It also approved the amendments to the Rules of the ASGP required by the reforms.

4. New Headquarters of the IPU – *The House of Parliaments*

The Secretary General reported on the construction of the new headquarters of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva. The project had an approved budget of 11 million Swiss francs financed with a loan from the Swiss Government, a mortgage from the Canton of Geneva, and voluntary contributions. In the course of the construction, savings had been realised and the Council had authorised the restoration of the external façade of the Annexe in addition to the work on the main building. Fund raising had exceeded expectations and there were now sufficient funds to complete the Annexe and install the archives.

The Council acknowledged the financial assistance that had been given to the project by the parliaments of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom and by the Canton of Geneva, and approved the completion of the Annexe.

The Secretariat moved into the new premises in December 2002 when the construction was substantially complete; the Executive Committee, the Human Rights Committee, and the Post-Doha Steering Committee had already had an opportunity to meet in the new conference wing. The United Nations had issued a commemorative stamp in recognition of the new headquarters building.

5. Cooperation with the United Nations System

The Council applauded the decision taken by the United Nations General Assembly to grant observer status to the Inter-Parliamentary Union along with the additional right to circulate its official documents at the United Nations. The Council also welcomed the speech subsequently delivered

by the President of the Council to the UN General Assembly in which he invited Member States to assist in identifying specific areas where national parliaments, working through the IPU, could make a measurable contribution to the work of the United Nations.

The Council also took note of the Secretary General's report regarding discussions under way in the Executive Committee to identify elements for a programme of activities aimed at tightening the relationship between the two organisations. The report pinpointed democracy and governance, human rights and gender issues, sustainable development and the fight against terrorism as areas in which the IPU could provide a unique contribution based on its parliamentary expertise.

The Council approved a recommendation of the Executive Committee to establish a network of focal points in parliaments for matters relating to UNESCO and to launch the initiative on the occasion of the next UNESCO General Conference in September/October 2003.

The Council approved in principle a proposal to launch a parliamentary campaign to promote safe drinking water in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Finally, the Council took note of plans to strengthen the IPU's cooperation with several programmes and agencies of the United Nations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

6. Second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments

The Council approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to hold a Second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments in 2005 (see page 45 for the full text of the recommendation). The Second Conference would review progress in implementing the recommendations issued by the first Conference in 2000 on the establishment of a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation, and assess action taken by national parliaments in support of the Millennium Development Goals. A Preparatory Committee would be set up in October 2003 to make the necessary arrangements for the Conference.

7. Relations with Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Assemblies and Networks

At its 170th session in Marrakech, the Council adopted a series of criteria to govern its relations with inter-parliamentary associations, assemblies and networks as a response to their increasing proliferation, which has the effect of diluting the Union's efforts to provide an effective parliamentary dimension to international cooperation. In Santiago, the Council returned to the matter, recommending that it be taken up directly with the Speakers of Member Parliaments, who should be strongly urged to ensure that all projects which MPs launch with international organisations be systematically channelled through the IPU.

8. Strengthening Democracy and Parliamentary Institutions

The Council heard a report by the Secretariat on activities it had undertaken in recent months under its Technical Cooperation Programme. In 2002, the IPU had implemented activities related to strengthening capacity in a dozen parliaments in projects valued at some 1.3 million US dollars.

The IPU was increasingly adopting an integrated approach in its parliamentary strengthening programmes, combining capacity building in the area of parliamentary procedures and practice with improving knowledge in substantive areas such as human rights, promoting gender partnership in parliament's work, and enhancing accountability through the budget process.

Interesting new initiatives included major projects for the future in Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea, as well as governance capacity building for parliaments in the least developed countries, in cooperation with the United Nations. The IPU was also initiating contacts with a view to providing assistance in the establishment of a parliament in Afghanistan. Similar efforts would be made with regard to Iraq.

Pursuant to the mandate entrusted to him by the governing bodies, the Secretary General had approached several donors, through national parliaments, with project proposals relating to the promotion of democracy. The initial response to requests for funding had been encouraging and funding had already been obtained for some of the project proposals. Other donors had expressed willingness to contribute, and it was hoped that agreements would be concluded in coming weeks. Member parliaments were encouraged to lend

more support to the Secretary General in his contacts with donor agencies in their countries.

9. Recent Specialised Conferences and Meetings

The Council took note of the results of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO jointly organised by the IPU and the European Parliament and held in Geneva on 17 and 18 February 2003. The Conference was an important step on the path to establishing a permanent parliamentary process for the WTO evolving around regular parliamentary meetings held initially once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conferences. Following introductory remarks by President S. Páez, who had co-chaired the Conference together with a Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. R. Imbeni, the Council took note of the report on the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO and of the text of the Final Declaration which it had adopted by consensus (see page 36).

The concluding recommendation of the Conference called on the IPU and the European Parliament to work together in organising the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, to be held on the occasion of the fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancún, Mexico, in September 2003. The Council was briefed by the IPU Secretary General on the preparation of the Cancún session and in particular on the successful outcome of his exploratory visit to the WTO Conference site.

10. Reports of Plenary Bodies and Subsidiary Committees

At its sitting on 12 April, the Council took note of the reports on the activities of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, and the Gender Partnership Group (see page 12). It also heard the reports of the Panel on Trafficking of Children and the Think Tank on Female Genital Mutilation (see page 15).

The Council also filled vacant positions on the various bodies (see page 17).

After hearing the report of the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Council heard statements by the representatives of Morocco, Palestine and Israel. The Council accepted the clarification proposed by the observer from Palestine regarding the postponement of the January 2003 elections in the territories under the control of the Palestinian National Authority. The Council authorised the Secretariat to relaunch the initiative of holding a parliamentary meeting at IPU Headquarters between legislators from the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council. It further authorised the holding of a half-day meeting of the Committee at the 109th session of the Assembly.

When noting the report on the Meeting of Representatives of Parties to the CSCM Process, the Council agreed to a half-day meeting of the CSCM Coordinating Committee to be held during the 109th Assembly.

11. Human Rights Mission to Colombia

At the request of the Council, the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians carried out a mission to Bogotá on 31 March and 1 April 2003 relating to the human rights cases it was examining in the country. At the recommendation of the Executive Committee, which echoed the recommendation of the mission itself, the Council decided to invite all member parliaments to take action to support the conclusion of a humanitarian agreement between the Government of Colombia and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) to secure the release of the hostages, including the members of the Colombian Congress held by the guerrilla group, and to pave the way for peace negotiations (see page 39).

12. Future Inter-Parliamentary Meetings

The Council approved the dates of the future IPU Assembly scheduled to take place in Geneva, adopted the agenda for the three Standing Committees and approved the list of observers. It also approved the list of future meetings and other activities (see page 48).

240th Session of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee held its 240th session in Santiago de Chile on 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11 April

2003. The President, Mr. S. Páez, chaired the meetings. The following members and substitutes

took part in the session: Mr. S. Fazakas (Hungary), Ms. J. Fraser (Canada) (replaced by Mr. D. Oliver on 10 and 11 April), Ms. G. Mahlangu (South Africa), Mr. J. Trobo (Uruguay), substituting for Mr. W. Abdala, Mr. G. Nzouba-Ndama (Gabon), replaced by Mr. A. Ndjavé Djoye on 10 and 11 April, Ms. B. Angara-Castillo (Philippines) substituting for Mr. F. Drilon, Ms. Z. Ríos-Montt (Guatemala), Mr. R. Salles (France), and Mr. I. Ostash (Ukraine). Mr. N. Enkhbold (Mongolia), Vice-President, Mr. M. Al-Saqer (Kuwait), and Ms. P. Larsen (Denmark) were absent.

At its sitting on 10 April, the President informed the Committee that Mr. S. Almansury (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) had passed away prior to his departure for Santiago de Chile.

The proceedings of the Executive Committee were devoted to discussing and making recommendations on agenda items to be addressed by the Council (see page 7). The other matters considered by the Committee are summarised below.

The Committee devoted considerable attention to its recommendation to the Council regarding the affiliation request from the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia, as it had at its 239th session in Geneva.

The Committee approved amendments to its own Rules.

The Committee was informed of various new staff appointments for the positions of Director of the IPU Office of the Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, Programme Officer for Technical Cooperation, and Researcher on Gender Issues and Development Questions, the third appointment still to be confirmed. Two of the posts had been filled by women, thus improving the gender distribution among the Secretariat posts. A French translator was also shortly to take his retirement. In more general terms, the Union Secretariat was going through a restructuring process that would be completed later in the year.

Meeting and Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

The Eighth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians took place on 6 April 2003 and brought together some 90 women and several men from the following 71 countries: Algeria, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zambia. Observers from the United Nations, UNICEF and UNHCR also attended the proceedings.

After a few words of welcome by the President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. G. Mahlangu, the Meeting elected as its President Ms. I. Allende, President of the Chilean Chamber of Deputies, who made a brief presentation on the situation of women in the

world, with particular emphasis on the women and children living in Iraq. Mr. S. Páez, President of the IPU Council, also welcomed the participants. The Meeting also heard Ms. C. Pérez, Chilean Minister of Women's Affairs, who presented the situation of women in Chile and the Government's efforts geared to the advancement of the status of women.

Ms. Y. Kamikawa (Japan), first Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee, reported on the work of the Committee at its last two sessions. The Meeting then elected Ms. P. Ernstberger (Germany) as titular regional representative and Ms. D. Arellano Sandoval (Nicaragua) and Ms. G. Gautier (France) as substitute regional representatives to the Coordinating Committee to fill the posts that had become vacant during the course of the year. It also approved three amendments to its Rules, proposed by the Coordinating Committee and designed to encourage the participation of men parliamentarians in the work of the Meeting, in addition to achieving a better balance in the composition of the Committee.

Further to a proposal submitted by the Coordinating Committee, the Meeting changed its agenda to replace the item initially dedicated to debating item 5 of the Conference agenda on *International cooperation for the prevention and*

management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned with a debate on The situation of women and children in conflict situations, with particular reference to Iraq. Ms. S. Damen-Masri (Jordan) and Ms. T. Heberlein (Switzerland) were asked to present in the afternoon a summary of the main points raised during the debate. This summary, subsequently approved by the Meeting, provided the basis for a series of elements for a draft resolution which was submitted to the drafting committee of item 8 of the Conference agenda on *The need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to re-establish peace: the role of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union.* Many of the recommendations of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians were subsequently incorporated into the resolution adopted by the 108th Conference on this item.

The Meeting heard a statement by Ms. A. King, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Gender Affairs and Advancement of Women, on the occasion of the launch of the recently published Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, jointly produced by the IPU and the United Nations. Men and women parliamentarians were strongly encouraged to make use of the Handbook by organising awareness-building events in their respective parliaments and by ensuring that the CEDAW was properly implemented. Furthermore, the Meeting urged all those States that were not party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention to consider ratifying it as soon as possible.

A special dialogue between men and women parliamentarians also took place for the first time during the Meeting. The debate, on *The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society and to assess it at its full value*, was introduced by Ms. P. Torsney (Canada) and Mr. D. Bakker (South Africa). It provided a good opportunity for men and women to engage in dialogue and exchange views on a topic of mutual interest.

Ms. J. Fraser, Rapporteur of the IPU Gender Partnership Group, reported on the Group's work in Santiago. The participants were very interested in her presentation and expressed unanimous support for the Group's proposed new fields of work (see page 14). The IPU's work in the field of gender partnership was also discussed, with a special reference to action aimed at combating female genital mutilation (see page 16).

The Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians met on 6 and 11 April with its President, Ms. G. Malhangu, in the Chair. The sitting of 6 April served to prepare and facilitate the work of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

At its sitting on 11 April, the Committee assessed the outcome of the Santiago Meetings from the standpoint of the women MPs and began preparing the Coordinating Committee's next session (Geneva, September 2003), as well as the Meeting's following session (London, March-April 2004). With regard to the work of the new Standing Committees, the Coordinating Committee decided to brief the Rapporteurs for the item on *The contribution of new information and communication technologies to good governance, the improvement of parliamentary democracy and the management of globalisation* so as to ensure that they took gender issues into account in their report. Regarding the Ninth Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, the Coordinating Committee decided to continue the dialogue between men and women on *The best ways to account for women's contribution to the economy and the general welfare of society, and to assess it at its full value.* It also hoped that a Panel on *Sexual exploitation of children* could be included in the programme of the 110th Assembly. Finally, the Coordinating Committee suggested that the next IPU survey on women in politics deal with the question of men's contribution to gender equality in politics.

The Coordinating Committee also had a joint session with the Gender Partnership Group on 7 April 2003. The results of these discussions were included in the Group's report.

Subsidiary Bodies and Committees of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The 101st session of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians was scheduled to be held from 6 to 11 April 2003 in Santiago de Chile. Only the Committee's President,

Mr. M. Samarasinghe (Sri Lanka), and Ms. V. Nedvedová (Czech Republic), full members, together with Mr. J. Lefevre (Belgium), the latter's substitute, were able to travel to Santiago. In the absence of the necessary quorum to deliberate and to take decisions, the session was brought to a close on 9 April 2003.

At its 101st session the Committee had before it 57 cases concerning 230 former or incumbent MPs in 29 countries. Six cases were referred to it for the first time. The Committee members present at the session took advantage of the presence in Santiago of delegations of countries in respect of which it was examining cases to hear them informally, share concerns with them and exchange information. They also heard representatives of sources. A total of 11 hearings were held and the information and observations thus gathered were included in the relevant case reports. An updated version of the reports on cases already pending before the Council was thus placed at the disposal of the Council.

2. Meeting of Representatives of the Parties to the CSCM Process

The representatives of the parties to the process of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CSCM) held their twenty-first meeting (see report of proceedings on page 40) in Santiago de Chile on Wednesday, 9 April 2003, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair.

The session was attended by:

- Representatives from 15 of the 24 main participants: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey; a government official from Malta attended the meeting as an observer, since the Maltese Parliament could not attend the conference.
- Representatives of the following associate participants: (i) Palestine; and (ii) Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Assembly of the Western European Union, and the Maghreb Consultative Council;
- An observer from the Parliament of Germany.

The session was preceded by a meeting of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force chaired by Ms. A. Vassiliou (Cyprus), on Tuesday, 8 April. In that capacity, she was automatically a member of the CSCM Coordinating Committee.

The session was also preceded by a meeting of the CSCM Coordinating Committee, held on the previous day, with Mr. R. Salles in the Chair. It was attended by representatives from Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, by the representative of the Mediterranean Women Parliamentarians' Task Force and, as an observer, by a representative from the Government of Malta.

3. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Committee met on 7 and 10 April with the newly elected President, Mr. F.M. Vallersnes (Norway), in the Chair. The other titular members present were Ms. M. Bergé-Lavigne (France), Mr. T. Hadjigeorgiou (Cyprus), Mr. S. El-Alfi (Egypt) and Ms. P. Chagsuchinda (Thailand). Mr. R. Ahouadjinou (Benin) was absent.

During its first session, the Committee held a hearing with Israeli and Palestinian representatives in the presence of delegates from Egypt and Jordan. The Committee regretted that, due to the current situation in the Israeli-Palestinian region as well as the formation of the new Palestinian cabinet, no member of the Palestinian Legislative Council was able to attend the meeting.

The Committee stressed that in order to fulfil its mandate of facilitating dialogue between members of the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council, the latter should be able to freely attend international forums and return to their country safely.

The Committee welcomed the existence of the Road Map drafted by the Quartet, which called for an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with Israel and its other neighbours by 2005 at the latest, at the end of a three-phase process which had been presented to both parties to the conflict, plus Egypt and Jordan. The Committee called for publication of the document and expressed its will to contribute actively to its implementation. It called on the MPs concerned to monitor the action taken on its implementation by their governments. It encouraged the Israeli and Arab delegations attending the Committee's sessions to study the document and come back to discuss it with their counterparts, within the framework of the Committee.

The Committee regretted the postponement of the Palestinian presidential and legislative elections that had been scheduled for 20 January 2003. The Committee encouraged the Palestinian National Authority to reschedule those elections as soon as

possible and stressed the need for a safe, free and fair process, without any outside interference.

The Committee also regretted that, due to the elections to the Knesset held in Israel on 28 January 2003, a meeting between legislators from the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council that was due to be organised at IPU Headquarters in Geneva in December 2002 had been postponed. The members of the Committee unanimously asked the IPU to re-launch that initiative.

The Committee asked the Council to authorise it to hold a half-day meeting during the session of the Assembly in October in Geneva.

4. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The members of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Ms. B. Mugo, President, and Mr. R. Vázquez met on 11 April 2003. Also present were the Secretary General of the African Parliamentary Union (APU) and representatives from the ICRC and the UNHCR.

During its meeting in Santiago, the Committee discussed means of ensuring efficient follow-up to the Regional Conference on *International Humanitarian Law for the Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict*. The event, which took place in February 2002, in Niamey (Niger), was organised by the APU in cooperation with the ICRC and the IPU and with input from the UNHCR. The Committee asked the organisers to produce an assessment of follow-up measures taken, inviting them to work in cooperation with the Follow-up Committee set up after the Conference. One suggestion strongly recommended by the Committee was to organise a regional conference in Africa along the same lines as the Niamey one, but with the question of refugee protection as a main topic.

The Committee agreed to close the survey it had launched in October 2000, designed to assess the status of parliaments' involvement in IHL issues and collect updated information on States' actions to ensure respect for IHL. The survey had confirmed that implementation of international humanitarian law was hampered by the fact that parliaments were unfamiliar with IHL and unclear as to their role in implementing it, and the means available for doing so.

The Committee felt the need to strengthen its efforts to monitor respect for IHL. It suggested that, with ICRC support, it monitor compliance with IHL

at each of its sessions and take action, when necessary, to ensure respect by means of bilateral individual contacts, letters from the Secretary General, letters from the Committee President and, if need be, letters from the President of the IPU Council.

The Committee members then took stock of the progress made in translating and disseminating the three Handbooks for Parliamentarians, which were produced under their guidance, in their capacity as IHL Committee members or Officers of the Second IPU Study Committee. They welcomed the fact that the IPU-ICRC Handbook on *Respect for International Humanitarian Law* existed in 12 languages with six more in preparation, the IPU-UNHCR Handbook on *Refugee Protection* existed in 21 languages and the IPU-ILO Handbook on *Eliminating the Worst Forms of Child Labour* existed in seven languages, with one more version in preparation.

The Committee thanked those parliaments which had translated the Handbook(s) and encouraged others to follow suit, in consultation with the IPU and the ICRC, the UNHCR, or the ILO. It also commended the very positive working relationship that had been established with the three partner organisations and thanked them for their support. All parliaments were invited to organise a public launch of the Handbook(s) in parliament, once translated, with the participation of the IPU and the partner organisations concerned. The Committee also recommended that the Handbook(s) be brought to the attention of parliamentarians, the relevant parliamentary committees, competent ministries and other relevant institutions.

Turning to future activities, the Committee took note with great interest of the results of the ICRC Conference on *The Missing* (Geneva, February 2003). It recognised the unique character of the Conference and suggested that the IPU could contribute to its follow-up by collecting information on existing legislation and best practices on some aspects of the question. The Committee further agreed that regional seminars for parliamentarians on this question could be very useful.

The second proposed new activity concerned cooperation with the International Campaign for the Banning of Landmines (ICBL) and the need to revive parliamentary action to achieve universal accession to and implementation of the *Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction*. To that end, a series of recommendations to

Parliaments were brought to the attention of the Council (see page 41). The Committee also agreed to monitor the situation at each of its meetings and to raise this issue at regional group meetings. Finally, it decided to cooperate with ICBL to contribute to the 2004 Review Conference on action taken since the Convention's entry into force.

5. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group held its 11th session in Santiago de Chile. The participants were Ms. J. Fraser, Ms. G. Mahlangu, Mr. R. Salles and Mr. J. Trobo, substituting for Mr. W. Abdala. Ms. Fraser acted as moderator. Ms. Z. Ríos Montt took part as an observer in order to replace Ms. Fraser who could not be present during the whole Conference. A joint session with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians also took place on 7 April 2003.

The Group studied the composition of delegations attending the 108th IPU Conference in Santiago. Of the 579 delegates attending, 147 were women (25%). The Group welcomed the fact that the proportion of single-gender delegations had decreased to 22% (25 delegations out of the 115 present), while noting that this figure remained high. Of these, 23 delegations were all-male (20%) and two were all-female (2%). All of the five single-member delegations attending were made up of men.

The Group welcomed the fact that its proposed amendments to the Statutes of the IPU, as sub-amended by the Belgian Group, had been approved by the Council and subsequently adopted by the Conference. The amendments, which would be implemented as of the next Assembly, provided strong incentives to Members to ensure that their delegations included both men and women. They set out sanctions for delegations which failed to include both men and women parliamentarians in their delegation for three Assemblies in a row, by reducing the number of delegates and number of votes to which they were entitled by one. The amendments also ensured that membership of the Executive Committee was limited to parliaments of countries where women were entitled to vote and stand for election.

The Group would continue monitoring women's participation in IPU delegations at each of its sessions and would assess the amendments' impact before determining any new additional measures. It also invited the IPU Secretary General to

continue to write to parliaments that announced single-gender delegations.

The Group recommended that the IPU continue to collect and disseminate data on women's status and participation in politics together with information on progress in domestic and regional legislation with regard to gender issues and women's contribution to the democratic process. In addition, the Group advocated the collection of data on parliamentary committees on women's rights and on the impact of some affirmative action measures aimed at facilitating equal participation of men and women in politics. Another recommendation was to strengthen the activities of the IPU Focal Points for Questions relating to the Status of Women and urge IPU Focal Points to attend IPU Conferences, as this would facilitate exchange of information on national situations and best practices.

A number of parliaments in the world still had no women parliamentarians, and several countries had yet to grant women the right to vote and stand for election. The Group expressed concern at the outlook and decided to monitor the situation of those parliaments and to determine ways in which the IPU could assist them in remedying it. It suggested holding informal consultations with delegations from the parliaments concerned at each of its sessions.

Turning to the question of future activities, the Group discussed the importance of raising awareness among men and women parliamentarians regarding ways and means of developing gender-sensitive budgets. It welcomed the fact that the IPU had organised a series of regional seminars on *Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective*, and expressed its willingness to act as an Advisory and Editorial Board for the finalisation of a Handbook for parliamentarians on that same subject. The Group also expressed an interest in ensuring that the IPU budget was gender-sensitive. It suggested starting work on the question by determining criteria for a gender-sensitive IPU budget, with a view to developing recommendations for future IPU budgets.

The new Standing Committees should take gender issues into account in their debates and work. The Group offered to act as a link with the Committees to mainstream gender into their discussions and reports. The Group also suggested that panels on gender issues take place on the occasion of IPU Assemblies. Specific concerns of women in the

regions where Assemblies were held should be kept in mind.

Conscious of the need for the IPU to take public stands on certain critical situations relating to women between Assembly Meetings, the Group recommended that it be given a mandate to publicly voice IPU positions on certain issues with

the authorisation of the President of the Council. This was approved by the Council.

Finally, the Group recommended that the practice of holding joint sessions with the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians be pursued.

Other events

1. Panel on Trafficking of Children

A panel on *Trafficking of Children* was held during the 108th Conference, in close cooperation with UNICEF, the International Labour Office and the International Organization for Migration. The panel, which took place on 9 April 2003, was chaired by Ms. I. Allende. Panellists included MPs from Ghana, Japan, Romania, Sweden, and Thailand, as well as representatives of UNICEF and ILO. Ms. D. Del Gatto, Director of the Chilean National Department of Minors, presented the work done in her country, and served as Rapporteur.

The panel raised a great deal of interest. There was a broad consensus among participants that child trafficking ranked as a serious violation of the fundamental rights of children - a violation consisting of illegally displacing and detaining children with a view to their sale, work-related exploitation, illegal adoption or sexual exploitation.

Every year, some 1.2 million children fell prey to this form of trafficking, which constituted a worldwide and constantly growing problem. Participants agreed that solving it would require the assistance and cooperation of all sectors concerned that must work towards its prevention and elimination at the national, regional and international levels. Public and private efforts made under many different strategies (legal, legislative, awareness-building, assistance to victims and cooperation between countries) must target the countries of origin, transit and destination.

It was therefore agreed that parliaments were strategically well placed to help drive the programme to combat trafficking of children nationally, regionally and internationally. Given that countries were at different stages with regard to advocacy, legislation, prevention and interregional cooperation relating to trafficking in children and adolescents, parliaments, with the

backing of the international organisations concerned, had to work together towards a solution to this problem.

Participants strongly insisted on the need to ensure efficient follow-up to the panel, and endorsed a series of recommendations to parliaments, their members and the IPU, presented by the Rapporteur (see page 43).

2. Think Tank on Female Genital Mutilation

The Think Tank on combating female genital mutilation (FGM) met in Santiago on 9 April 2003. The session was attended by its members, Ms. K. Andersen (Norway), Ms. R. Kadaga (Uganda) and Ms. M. Roe (United Kingdom). Also in attendance were Ms. G. Malhangu and representatives from UNICEF and the UNHCR. Ms. Kadaga chaired the session.

Since the Marrakech Meetings, the Think Tank had endeavoured to increase awareness of the work of parliaments and of the IPU in this field. Members had represented the IPU at the statutory Meeting of the African Parliamentary Union in Sudan (October 2002) and at the International Conference on *Zero Tolerance to FGM* held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, organised by the African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC). Members welcomed the results of the Conference and the Common Agenda for Action to Eliminate FGM that it adopted, as well as the fact that 6 February was declared International Day of *Zero Tolerance to FGM*.

The Think Tank also took stock of initiatives taken in different countries to eradicate FGM. It welcomed the report submitted by the Parliament of Guinea on *Consultations carried out for the development of a draft International Convention for the Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)*; information on action taken in the United Kingdom to make it a criminal offence to deliberately send a child overseas for FGM purposes; information on

initiatives taken in Norway which included the organisation of awareness-raising activities among Somali immigrants, and information on the fact that FGM was recognised as a form of persecution which should enable girls to obtain refugee status.

Discussion showed that legislation was only the first step in eradicating FGM. It had to be complemented by stringent implementation, awareness-raising campaigns, the sensitising of religious leaders, education campaigns to change mentalities, assistance to victims, assistance to former excision practitioners, and the provision of funding for programmes and NGOs. Combating FGM therefore required multifaceted actions in which parliaments had a crucial role to play.

The Think Tank submitted the following recommendations to the Council:

1. It recognised that the IPU database on existing legislation on FGM was a very practical tool and recommended that the IPU continue collecting and updating the data. It should also be supplemented with information on existing operational structures which would serve as good examples of best practices for other countries.
2. It recommended producing user-friendly information on FGM, emphasising the use of good practices in all regions, to facilitate parliamentary action.
3. It recommended that the IPU monitor the progress made at the legislative level at each of its Assembly meetings and that information on countries that had not yet passed legislation should be given to the Regional Groups concerned and discussed.
4. It agreed that it should raise the issue at the Meeting of Leaders of Delegations, on the occasion of each Assembly, inviting those concerned to take action.
5. It recommended that the African Parliamentary Union and the IPU jointly organise a conference in Africa as soon as possible on parliamentary action to address FGM. The Conference should bring together members of parliament, religious and traditional leaders, activists, NGOs, former practitioners of FGM, and others. A specific parliamentary strategy and plan of action to coordinate parliamentary action to combat FGM should result from the Conference, ensuring a parliamentary follow-up to some of the objectives set out in the Common Agenda for Action for the Elimination of FGM, adopted by the IAC Conference last February.
6. It recommended that the IPU strengthen cooperation with UN agencies and international organisations that have developed expertise in the field.
7. It called on the IPU to set up a sub-committee on child protection issues as soon as possible, so as to ensure appropriate follow-up on the issue and on others relating to children's rights. It therefore requested the Council to bring the suggestion to the attention of the Executive Committee for appropriate consideration and recommendations, and to take the matter up at its next session.

3. Media events

The 108th IPU Conference enjoyed very good press coverage. Chilean and international media covered the four official press conferences and other press events, at which three Handbooks for MPs were presented.

- The first, published jointly by the IPU and the United Nations, covered the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* and its *Optional Protocol*. Ms. I. Allende, Ms. A. King and Ms. G. Mahlangu presented the CEDAW Handbook to the press.
- The IPU also launched a Handbook with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) on *Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector* at a media event attended by Mr. S. Páez, Mr. F. Flores, Chairman of the Chilean Senate Defence Committee, General J.C. Salgado, Defence Chief of Staff, Mr. P. Günter (Switzerland) and Dr. P. Fluri, Deputy Director of DCAF.
- The launch by the IPU and the UNHCR of the Spanish-language version of the Handbook for MPs on International Refugee Law gave an opportunity to bring refugee issues to the attention of the media. After the President of the IPU Council had made some opening comments, Mr. A. Castro-Pita, Acting Regional Representative of the UNHCR, and Mr. R. Vázquez (Argentina), along with other parliamentarians and representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees drew attention to the importance of ensuring that States join forces to guarantee protection and assistance for refugees and displaced persons, particularly in the light of current events.

The parliamentary television channel of the Chilean Senate staged a round table on the commitment of

States and parliaments to the refugee question. The participants were Mr. R. Vázquez, Mr. J. Riera,

representative of UNHCR, Mr. G. Ceroni (Chile) and Mr. R. Nuñez (Chile).

Elections, Appointments and Membership

1. Office of President of the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference

Mr. A. Zaldivar Larraín, President of the Chilean Senate, was elected President of the Conference.

2. Officers of the Standing Committees

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

President

Mr. Eduardo Menem (Argentina)
(Latin American Group)

First Vice-President

Mr. Sulaiman Hadad (Syrian Arab Republic)
(Arab Group)

Vice-Presidents

African Group

Mr. Albert Ndjavé-Djoye (Gabon) – titular member
Mr. Thiémélé Boa (Côte d'Ivoire) – substitute member

Arab Group

Ms. Zahra Bitat (Algeria) – substitute member

Asia-Pacific Group

Ms. Khunying Jintana Sookmark (Thailand) – titular member
Ms. Iris Indira Murti (Indonesia) – substitute member

Twelve Plus Group

Mr. John Wilkinson (United Kingdom) – titular member
Mr. Csaba Tiberiu Kovacs (Romania) – substitute member

Eurasia Group

Mr. Vladimir Bavlov (Russian Federation) – titular member
Mr. Bato-Zhargal Zhambalnimbuev (Russian Federation) – substitute member

Latin American Group

Mr. Luis Fernando Duque García (Colombia) – substitute member

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

President

Mr. Einar Gudfinnsson (Iceland)

(Twelve Plus Group)

First Vice-President

Ms. Tatiana Yaryguina (Russian Federation)
(Eurasia Group)

Vice-Presidents

African Group

Ms. Nora Schimming-Chase (Namibia) – titular member
Mr. Tierno Aliou Baniré Diallo (Guinea) – substitute member

Arab Group

Mr. Fawwaz Abulghanam (Jordan) – titular member
Mr. Mohammed Ihsan Bu-Hulaiga (Saudi Arabia) – substitute member

Asia-Pacific Group

Mr. Eduardo Velosos (Philippines) – titular member
Mr. Pravich Rattanapien (Thailand) – substitute member

Twelve Plus Group

Ms. Ingrida Udre (Latvia) – substitute member

Eurasia Group

Mr. Vadim Popov (Belarus) – substitute member

Latin American Group

Mr. Luis Alberto Heber (Uruguay) – titular member
Mr. Darío Vivas (Venezuela) – substitute member

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

President

Ms. Rebecca A. Kadaga (Uganda)
(African Group)

First Vice-President

Mr. Jay-Kun Yoo (Republic of Korea)
(Asia-Pacific Group)

Vice-Presidents

African Group

Mr. Alban Baghin (Ghana) – substitute member

Arab Group

Mr. Gamaleldin Abdelahad (Egypt) – titular member
Mr. Ahmed El-Kadiri (Morocco) – substitute member

Asia-Pacific Group

Mr. Prem Chand Gupta (India) – substitute member

Twelve Plus Group

Ms. Brigitta Gadiant (Switzerland) – titular member
Mr. Henrik S. Järrel (Sweden) – substitute member

Eurasia Group

Mr. Sergey Zhalybin (Kazakhstan) – titular member
Mr. Tolib Nabiev (Tajikistan) – substitute member

Latin American Group

Mr. José Machuca (El Salvador) – titular member
Ms. Addy Joaquín Coldwell (Mexico) – substitute member

3. Rapporteurs of the Standing Committees to the 109th Assembly

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Mr. Christoph Zöpel (Germany)
Ms. Salwa Masri (Jordan)

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Mr. Donald Oliver (Canada)
Ms. Evelyn Matthei (Chile)

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Ms. Isabelle Fila Lemina (Congo)
Mr. Patrice Martin-Lalande (France)

4. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Council elected Mr. H. Raidel (Germany), Ms. M. Vamvakinou (Australia) and Mr. P.R. Chavan (India) as substitute members for a four-year term until April 2007.

5. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Council elected Ms. J. Mackey (New Zealand) as member of the Group.

6. Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians elected the following titular members and substitute members to its Coordinating Committee (all terms of office to expire in April 2004):

Twelve Plus Group

Ms. Petra Ernstberger (Germany) – titular member
Ms. Gisèle Gautier (France) – substitute member

Latin American Group

Ms. Delia Arellano Sandoval (Nicaragua) – substitute member

7. Gender Partnership Group

The Executive Committee appointed Mr. R. Salles to the Group until the expiry of his term on the Executive Committee (September 2005).

8. CSCM Coordinating Committee

The Council appointed Mr. R. Salles as President of the Coordinating Committee for a two-year term until April 2005. It also appointed Ms. E. Papadimitriou and Mr. A. Radi (Morocco) as rapporteurs for the process for a two-year term until April 2005.

9. Post-Doha Steering Committee

The Executive Committee extended the term of Mr. G. Versnick at the head of the IPU delegation to the Post-Doha Steering Committee.

10. Management Board of the Staff Pension Fund

The Executive Committee appointed Mr. R. Salles to represent the Executive Committee on the Management Board of the Staff Pension Fund.

Membership of the Union*

Members (145)

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti,

* At the closure of the Conference

Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Associate Members (5)

Andean Parliament, Central American Parliament, European Parliament, Latin American Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Resolutions, Decisions and Votes of the 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference

PARLIAMENTS' ROLE IN STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference
(Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)*

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the IPU's "Universal Declaration on Democracy" adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (September 1997, Cairo),

Recalling the Declaration of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments entitled "The Parliamentary Vision for International Cooperation at the Dawn of the Third Millennium", adopted on 1 September 2000,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000 which sets out the Millennium Development Goals as internationally agreed targets for poverty eradication, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report 2002,

Reaffirming that democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles and norms and that it is thus a constantly perfected and always perfectible state or condition whose progress will depend upon a variety of political, social, economic and cultural factors,

Acknowledging that national parliaments represent the basis for good governance grounded on democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people, the rule of law, anti-corruption measures, gender equality and a favourable atmosphere and environment for investment,

Recognising that parliamentary institutions make an indispensable contribution to the achievement of meaningful democratic control and accountability through their scrutiny of the activities of governments, by:

- Relying on their constitutional authority to authorise, among other government legislative initiatives, the revenue-raising and spending measures of governments as a means of ensuring their cooperation,
- Conducting substantive scrutiny using a variety of practices that are specific to individual jurisdictions, including oral question periods and the entitlement to address written questions to ministers, committee hearings and other practices that support financial scrutiny,
- Providing citizens, both directly and through the mass media, with the information needed to hold governments accountable and to contribute constructively to the processes used to produce policy and legislation relating to democratisation and human development, both at home and abroad,

Emphasising the central role of democratic institutions in ensuring successful long-term human development, by:

- Using effective electoral, parliamentary and other mechanisms to create the conditions for ensuring that governments are responsive to the needs and interests of the governed,

- Ensuring that governments maintain the levels of popular legitimacy required both for effective governmental action with respect to human development and other issues, and for the civil order that is a precondition for effective governance,

Stressing the important role of parliaments as legitimate representatives of the people in strengthening democratisation in multilateral institutions and furthering human development,

Convinced that respect for human rights is not only a fundamental value in itself but also essential to developing stable, democratic and prosperous societies that are capable of living together in peace,

Recognising that education is a key to human development, and *acknowledging* that parliaments have a vital responsibility to guarantee free universal education without any discrimination whatsoever, as this hastens the pace of economic, social and political development and fosters cultural and spiritual advancement,

Noting that countries that have developed effective macroeconomic policies, established robust public institutions, maintained domestic political stability and strengthened the rule of law, supported by investments in people through better health and education, have generally achieved strong economic growth and made progress towards poverty reduction,

Convinced that the side-effects of globalisation and certain policies are, in some cases, inconsistent with the very concept of human development, and *stressing* the need for developing countries to realise that any progress, whether economic or social, is contingent upon their ability to create the necessary national will to face the challenges imposed on them by the new global system,

Stressing that persistent extreme poverty deprives citizens of full and effective enjoyment of human rights and of participation in democratic processes in each society,

Concerned that efforts to build strong democratic institutions while working towards sustainable human development encounter numerous challenges, such as poverty, corruption, globalisation, lack of resources, discrimination, transnational crime, civil strife, environmental degradation and overpopulation,

Expressing concern at the growth of terrorism, which poses a serious threat to democratic institutions, and its repercussions on human development,

Also expressing concern at the growing divide between rich and poor countries,

Emphasising the need to grant debt relief to the poor countries, address the causes of debt and take measures to ensure that indebtedness does not recur,

Stressing the need to redouble efforts to combat HIV/AIDS,

Recognising that volunteerism builds strong cohesive communities, encourages participation in the democratic process and reduces social tensions by forging a common view,

1. *Urges* governments and parliaments to acknowledge their collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;
2. *Calls on* all the parliaments in the world to work for democracy based on the freely expressed will of the people through free and fair elections to choose their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and participate fully in every sphere of their lives and, in this context, to affirm the universal need to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels;
3. *Calls on* governments to promote the participation of all sections of society, in particular women, the disadvantaged and minorities, in the decision-making process;
4. *Urges* the governments and parliaments of all countries to foster participation by their citizens in political decision-making, shielded from undue interference from institutionalised pressure groups, by creating, through democratic means, decentralised representative institutions vested with real power and endowed with adequate financial resources, and instituting channels for this purpose that are consistent with the spirit of their Constitution and traditions;

5. *Stresses* the need to reinforce cooperation between the United Nations and its organs and agencies and national parliaments with a view to furthering peace, security and development, abiding strictly by the principles of human dignity and equity;
6. *Urges* all States and multilateral institutions, including the IPU, to continue providing practical support to strengthen political structures such as parliaments and their committees, local governments, electoral commissions and political parties and to uphold democratic processes, and particularly free elections, so that these essential political systems operate with sufficient power, responsibility and authority to reflect the interests of the people as a whole; in this regard, *encourages* the IPU and the UNDP to pursue their cooperation in strengthening parliamentary institutions, and in implementing a strategic partnership within their respective development agendas;
7. *Stresses* the need for parliaments to submit regular reports on the state of democracy and human development in the world, to serve as working and consultative papers for the drafting of national policy;
8. *Encourages* all States to ratify and implement the international human rights instruments in their widest possible sense, which constitute the basis of democracy;
9. *Urges* the United Nations to extend the 1965 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to cover any form of political activity that derives from hate and violence;
10. *Recommends* the development of the natural function of parliament as the mediator between the public and international organisations and institutions, and parliament's systematic rapprochement with the NGOs that play a major role within civil society;
11. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to arrange for the IPU to make a substantive contribution, including the circulation of a document on the IPU and democracy, to the 5th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies in June 2003 in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia);
12. *Stresses* the urgent need to reform existing multilateral institutions by promoting democratic principles to ensure that their policies and programmes meet the interests of and benefit all nations; and *reaffirms* that the United Nations is the only legitimate multilateral institution responsible for world peace and security and must perform its role and functions in compliance with the principles of international law and its Charter;
13. *Urges* parliaments around the world to make maximum use of existing processes for exerting legislative influence, financial control, scrutiny and accountability in support of a global democratisation and human development agenda, and to experiment with special debates, public consultations, committee studies and other initiatives designed to mobilise governments and world public opinion in favour of democratic institutions and human development;
14. *Encourages* parliaments to develop parliamentary diplomacy activities and to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation;
15. *Urges* parliaments, in this regard, to devote ever closer attention to international issues and particularly to development financing, debt, poverty reduction, human rights, gender equality, the rights of the child, and the right to education, and to routinely take account of this dimension when legislating;
16. *Also urges* parliaments to put into place the necessary structures to monitor and oversee the international negotiations conducted by governments, particularly when they need to be subsequently enacted into legislation;
17. *Requests* governments to ensure that all useful information relating to such negotiations is submitted to parliament, both in the negotiation phase and when implementing decisions, encompassing all texts, including those which do not require enactment into domestic law;

18. *Emphasises* the central role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as the world organisation of parliaments, in making a key contribution to strengthening democracy in its relations with international institutions and to keeping world peace;
 19. *Acknowledges* that, to achieve peace and security through social and economic stability, international institutions must offer the countries of the world the aid required to ensure reasonable standards of living, in contrast to the present disparities between rich and poor countries;
 20. *Underscores* the importance of establishing an international and regional strategy for human development focused on attaining sustainable economic growth and combating poverty, and of supporting and expanding integration-promoting institutions through national political participation in policy formulation and legislative decision-making, with continuous re-evaluation;
 21. *Requests* all parliaments to urge their governments to adopt measures to effectively enable them to honour the undertaking made by all the United Nations Member States in the Millennium Declaration, and to work jointly to establish more egalitarian processes in which all citizens in every country can participate;
 22. *Also requests* all countries to make a firm pledge to human development and take all appropriate measures to increase current social expenditure allocated in their budgets for human development;
 23. *Calls on* the parliaments of the developed countries to work towards the goal of earmarking at least 0.7 per cent of GNP as Official Development Assistance for global human development;
 24. *Further calls on* all parliaments and parliamentarians to enact not only measures that focus on facilitating economic growth, but more particularly those that empower people and promote their welfare and development;
 25. *Endorses* the Brussels Declaration, and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, and *emphasises*, in particular, the need for the effective implementation of Commitment 2 of the Programme relating to good governance at the national and international levels, and of Commitment 7 relating to necessary implementation of the Programme at the national level;
 26. *Requests* the IPU to devote special attention to the LDCs in its programmes and activities focusing on the areas of good governance at the national and international levels, and *also requests* parliaments to play a supportive role in ensuring the effective implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action at the national level;
 27. *Strongly endorses* the resolution adopted by the IPU Council at its 168th session on 7 April 2001, expressing support for volunteerism and encouraging closer cooperation between the IPU and the United Nations Volunteers in this regard.
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**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF
TRANSBORDER NATURAL DISASTERS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE REGIONS CONCERNED**

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference
(Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)***

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Noting that natural disasters due to such phenomena as earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, hurricanes, forest fires that devastate virgin lands, and drought have hit countries throughout the world in recent years; and that the prevention of natural disasters and the management of their effects have become issues of great concern to these countries,

Conscious that natural disasters cause death and physical disruption which entails enormous social and economic cost and that the number of natural disasters (such as drought, floods and hurricanes) is increasing,

Emphasising the importance of identifying the meteorological and climatic causes of disasters, and the regions vulnerable to them, in order to lessen their impact,

Realising that the developing countries are the most seriously affected by these disasters because they are more vulnerable to natural risks,

Noting that natural risks connected with rivers, volcanoes and seismic fault lines often lie across national borders, necessitating their coordinated management by all the countries concerned,

Noting also that natural disasters which occur throughout the world have heightened national concerns for the safety of populations and the need for national and international measures to mitigate natural disasters,

Emphasising that environmental protection and mitigation of natural disasters may be closely linked and that natural disasters effect and may seriously damage the environment,

Recognising that each State bears primary responsibility for bringing relief to the victims of the natural disasters that occur on its own territory, and for adopting measures to allay their effects,

Aware of gender-specific differences in relation to vulnerability to natural risks, the impact of natural disasters and the needs to which they give rise,

Emphasising that vulnerability to natural disasters is often heightened by inequalities stemming from gender relations, economic circumstances, or ethnic or racial factors,

Emphasising also that natural disaster risk reduction is an integral part of sustainable development based on sound environmental management, and that

- Effective natural disaster prevention requires the participation of the vulnerable populations in planning, decision-making and operational activities;
- Any natural disaster prevention strategy involves various disciplines, sectors and institutions, thereby necessitating partnership arrangements,

Recognising the importance of legal instruments and international, regional and bilateral mechanisms that address natural disaster prevention and preparedness, and mitigate their effects,

Appreciating the work done by the agencies and partner organisations of the United Nations and by the various relevant regional organisations to mitigate the effects of natural disasters,

Noting the results of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1989-1999) and the institutional arrangements put into place after the closure of the Decade,

Calling to mind the strategy entitled A Safer World in the 21st Century: Risk and Disaster Prevention, and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation, and its Plan of Action,

Bearing in mind the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and its Plan of Action, and particularly the commitments to enhance the role of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to allocate sufficient financial resources to the Special Fund for the Decade,

Recalling the relevant conclusions of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on “Women in the Year 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century”,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with countries and peoples struck by natural disasters;
2. *Calls on* governments to support efforts to build capacity in disaster preparedness, mitigation and management at regional, national and community levels, especially by increasing financial and technological assistance to developing countries, and to increase recognition and support for disaster management, in particular by incorporating disaster mitigation initiatives into national development strategies;
3. *Urges* all States to adopt and implement all necessary legislative and other appropriate measures to prevent, mitigate and manage the effects of transborder natural disasters, and to participate and engage constructively in regional and international disaster prevention and management forums;
4. *Encourages* the international community to cooperate more closely in mitigating the adverse effects of transborder natural disasters through improved preparedness, risk reduction and effective response, and to strengthen coordination mechanisms among States at the regional and international levels, including improved donor response coordination and harmonisation;
5. *Calls on* the international community to address funding, coordination, information exchange, and strategic planning in the context of transborder natural disasters, and to adopt common terminology, standards and practices to ensure greater interoperability in transborder disaster prevention and management;
6. *Urges* the UN agencies, multilateral and regional organisations, governmental and non-governmental actors to support research into the challenges of preventing and managing of transborder natural disasters;
7. *Calls on* governments to recognise the critical role of voluntary community-based and non-governmental organisations in disaster preparedness and response, and to facilitate their work, respecting their roles and principles, by enacting appropriate legislation;
8. *Encourages* States to consider signing or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, adopted at Tampere (Finland) on 18 June 1998, and also to commit to the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief;

9. *Urges* all States to pursue international cooperation in order more fully to understand and thus lessen the impact of extreme weather events and other climatic variables, to share relevant knowledge and experience, and to continue improving transborder disaster reduction capacities through increased scientific analysis of disaster causation and early warning mechanisms;
 10. *Invites* States to support the programmes implemented under the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and to increase funding earmarked for the Special Fund;
 11. *Urges* States to incorporate a gender-equal perspective into strategies, policies and activities relating to the prevention of natural disasters;
 12. *Calls on* parliaments to improve national legislation on the prevention of natural disasters and the mitigation of their impact, by adopting a multidisciplinary, gender-equal approach and by attaching special importance to the key role of local communities and partnership between all stakeholders;
 13. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure that national development programmes do not increase vulnerability to national risks, and that natural disaster preparedness is systematically incorporated into these programmes;
 14. *Invites* parliaments to note that the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is preparing a report on the current state of international law relating to disaster response, to be presented to States and national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in December 2003, and *calls on* parliaments to make good use of this report;
 15. *Urges* parliaments to recognise, according to established rules and criteria, the role of local bodies, the private sector, the scientific community, the media and other partners participating in activities linked to natural disaster prevention and management;
 16. *Calls on* parliaments to make use of parliamentary diplomacy to promote international cooperation in the fields of natural disaster prevention, early warning, intervention, disaster mitigation, recovery and reconstruction.
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**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
for the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled**

"A CALL BY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATION FOR PEACE"

Results

Affirmative votes.....	763	Total of affirmative and negative votes .	1087
Negative votes.....	324	Two-thirds majority	725
Abstentions	256		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Algeria	14			Guinea	12			Poland			15
Andorra	5	5		Hungary			13	Portugal		12	
Angola	12			Iceland		10		Republic of Korea			16
Argentina			15	India	23			Romania	4	10	
Australia	4	9		Indonesia	22			Russian Federation	18		2
Austria		12		Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Rwanda		12	
Bangladesh			20	Ireland	3	8		Samoa		absent	
Belarus	13			Israel		12		San Marino			10
Belgium		12		Italy	7	10		Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Bolivia		12		Japan		20		Saudi Arabia	13		
Brazil	20			Jordan	11			Singapore		11	
Bulgaria	2	8	2	Kazakhstan	12		1	Slovenia			11
Burkina Faso	12			Kenya	14			South Africa	14		2
Burundi		absent		Kuwait	11			Spain	6	9	
Cameroon			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic	11			Sri Lanka		absent	
Canada	13		2	Latvia			11	Sudan	15		
Cape-Verde	10			Lebanon	11			Suriname		absent	
Chile	4		9	Liechtenstein	5		5	Sweden		12	
China	23			Luxembourg			10	Switzerland	3	9	
Colombia		absent		Malaysia	14			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Costa Rica			11	Mali	12			Tajikistan	12		
Côte d'Ivoire	9	4		Mauritania		absent		Thailand	3		15
Croatia	11			Mexico		15	4	The fYR of Macedonia		absent	
Cuba	13			Monaco			10	Tunisia	10		
Cyprus	7		3	Morocco	14			Turkey	18		
Czech Republic	3	10		Mozambique	13			Uganda	13		
Denmark		12		Namibia	11			Ukraine		absent	
Ecuador		absent		Nepal			14	United Arab Emirates	11		
Egypt	18			Netherlands	4	9		United Kingdom		17	
El Salvador		absent		New Zealand	8	3		United Republic of Tanzania	14		
Ethiopia	18			Nicaragua	12			Uruguay			11
Fiji	10			Niger		absent		Venezuela	13		
Finland	4	8		Norway		11		Viet Nam	18		
France			17	Pakistan	20			Yemen	13		
Gabon	11			Panama		11		Zambia	12		
Germany		19		Peru	13		1				
Ghana	13			Philippines		absent					
Greece			13								
Guatemala		12									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the Conference which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Japan and Hungary
for the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled**

**"IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR,
CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF MISSILES,
INCLUDING THE PREVENTION OF THEIR USE BY TERRORISTS"**

Results

Affirmative votes	776	Total of affirmative and negative votes..	1106
Negative votes	330	Two-thirds majority.....	737
Abstentions.....	237		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Algeria		14		Guinea		12		Poland	15		
Andorra	10			Hungary	13			Portugal	12		
Angola		12		Iceland	10			Republic of Korea	16		
Argentina	15			India		23		Romania	14		
Australia	13	0		Indonesia	22			Russian Federation	20		
Austria	12			Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Rwanda	12		
Bangladesh			20	Ireland	11			Samoa	absent		
Belarus		13		Israel	12			San Marino			10
Belgium	12			Italy	15		2	Sao Tome and Principe	5		5
Bolivia	12			Japan	20			Saudi Arabia			13
Brazil	10	10		Jordan			11	Singapore	11		
Bulgaria	12			Kazakhstan	10		3	Slovenia	11		
Burkina Faso		12		Kenya		14		South Africa			16
Burundi	absent			Kuwait		11		Spain	15		
Cameroon			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic	8		3	Sri Lanka	absent		
Canada	13		2	Latvia	11			Sudan		15	
Cape-Verde			10	Lebanon		11		Suriname	absent		
Chile	9		4	Liechtenstein	5		5	Sweden	12		
China	15		8	Luxembourg	10			Switzerland	12		
Colombia	absent			Malaysia		14		Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Costa Rica	11			Mali			12	Tajikistan	6	6	
Côte d'Ivoire	4	9		Mauritania	absent			Thailand	18		
Croatia	11			Mexico	19			The FYR of Macedonia	absent		
Cuba		13		Monaco	10			Tunisia			10
Cyprus	10			Morocco		14		Turkey	18		
Czech Republic	12		1	Mozambique		13		Uganda		13	
Denmark	12			Namibia			11	Ukraine	absent		
Ecuador	absent			Nepal	14			United Arab Emirates			11
Egypt		18		Netherlands	13			United Kingdom	17		
El Salvador	absent			New Zealand	11			United Republic of Tanzania			14
Ethiopia		18		Nicaragua		12		Uruguay	11		
Fiji	10			Niger	absent			Venezuela	6		7
Finland	12			Norway	11			Viet Nam	18		
France	17			Pakistan	15		5	Yemen		13	
Gabon		11		Panama	11			Zambia		12	
Germany	19			Peru		4	10				
Ghana			13	Philippines	absent						
Greece	13										
Guatemala	12										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the Conference which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR, CHEMICAL AND
BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AND OF MISSILES,
INCLUDING THE PREVENTION OF THEIR USE BY TERRORISTS**

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 108th Conference
(Santiago de Chile, 11 April 2003)***

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that nuclear non-proliferation and prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons and their elimination, through effective measures, will facilitate general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Concerned at recent developments in arms control, disarmament and the access to weapons of mass destruction, not least in consideration of the risk that such weapons may fall into the hands of terrorists,

Also concerned that certain States do not fulfil the commitments made with respect to weapons of mass destruction, and *deeply concerned* at recent serious incidents of non-compliance with international treaties and/or UN Security Council resolutions regarding the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,

Stressing the need for confidence-building measures (information sharing and inspections) as suggested by the United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs,

Reaffirming the crucial importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the international régime for nuclear non-proliferation and as an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament,

Wishing to help achieve the purposes and enforce the principles of the United Nations Charter,

Recalling the various IPU resolutions adopted recently on this matter, in particular, *“Parliamentary action to encourage all countries to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty prohibiting all nuclear testing, to encourage universal and non-discriminatory nuclear non-proliferation measures and to work towards the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons”* (101st Conference in Brussels, April 1999), *“To comprehensively ban nuclear weapons testing and halt all present nuclear weapons tests”* (94th Conference in Bucharest, October 1995) and *“The importance of adhering to the obligations specified in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”* (91st Conference in Paris, March 1994),

Determined to resolve these issues peacefully, and contribute, for the stability of the world, to international cooperation to strengthen non-proliferation mechanisms for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, and missiles,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving universal accession to the NPT, and of States not party to the NPT acceding to it promptly and unconditionally as non-nuclear-weapon States, and of all States party to the NPT fulfilling their obligations under the Treaty;
2. *Also reaffirms* the importance of achieving the universal prohibition of chemical and biological weapons, and *calls on* States not party to the relevant international treaties to accede to them promptly and unconditionally;
3. *Calls on* all States to comply with international treaties on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the prohibition of biological and chemical weapons and to adopt stringent national legislation, where it does not already exist, for their implementation;

4. *Also calls on* all States to redouble their efforts to prevent and curb the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, confirming and strengthening their policies not to transfer equipment, materials or technology that could contribute to the proliferation of such weapons, not least in the hands of terrorists;
5. *Reaffirms* the importance for all States to fulfil their obligations under the relevant UN resolutions on the weapons of mass destruction;
- A. Nuclear weapons
6. *Calls on* States which have decided to withdraw or are contemplating withdrawing from the NPT to retract the decision and to comply with all their obligations to the international community regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, under the NPT, the IAEA Safeguards Agreement and all other relevant international commitments;
7. *Calls on* all Member States not to hinder the activities of States party to the NPT relating to the use of nuclear energy and technology for peaceful purposes, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant disarmament instruments;
8. *Urges* States not party to the NPT to accede to it immediately and unconditionally;
9. *Also urges* all States to take effective action to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
10. *Calls on* the international community to facilitate the creation of zones free from weapons of mass destruction;
11. *Agrees* that further reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons should be accorded priority and be included in the overall arms reduction negotiations;
12. *Calls on* all States which have not yet done so to conclude comprehensive safeguard agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to conclude additional protocols to their safeguards agreements (on the basis of the Model Protocol);
13. *Urges* all States to accede to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty;
- B. Chemical weapons
14. *Also urges* States party to the Chemical Weapons Convention to implement its provisions fully and without delay;
15. *Encourages* all the parties concerned to consider the use of challenge inspections as a way of verifying compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention;
- C. Biological and toxin weapons
16. *Urges* all States which have not yet done so to accede to the 1925 Geneva Protocol;
17. *Appeals* to the States party to the 1925 Geneva Protocol that submitted reservations to withdraw them at their earliest convenience;
18. *Urges* parliamentarians to use all the mechanisms of parliamentary diplomacy to promote broader accession to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and to have any reservations attached to it withdrawn;
19. *Urges* all States which have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction;
20. *Urges* all States signatories to the aforementioned Convention to ratify it as soon as possible;
21. *Urges* parliamentarians to use all the mechanisms of parliamentary and inter-parliamentary diplomacy to promote broader accession to the Convention;
22. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on biological weapons to make efforts to establish a more effective control mechanism for the verification of the Convention;

23. *Urges* that measures be undertaken to ensure national implementation of the prohibitions provided for in the Convention;
 24. *Calls on* parliaments and parliamentarians to identify the causes of failure to implement the Convention at the national level and the requirements for improving such implementation;
 25. *Urges* national parliaments to exchange information on best practices for national implementation and parliamentary oversight of implementation through the interaction of parliamentarians dealing with such aspects of legislation and oversight on parliamentary committees;
 26. *Also urges* parliaments to raise awareness of the need to strengthen national and international preparedness to fight the deliberate spread of disease, both man-made and naturally occurring;
 27. *Is convinced* that such awareness-raising efforts should be undertaken in close cooperation with the relevant international organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC);
 28. *Recommends* that in specific areas and regions, parliaments and the IPU monitor the deliberate spread of disease;
- D. Missiles
29. *Calls on* all States to exercise maximum self-restraint when conducting their missile activities, for the sake of regional and global peace and stability;
 30. *Invites* States to consider adherence to The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation and endeavour to make it a legally binding instrument;
- E. Export control
31. *Calls for* the strengthening of export control and the multilateral export control régimes, not least in fighting terrorism;
 32. *Calls on* the United Nations – even though depleted uranium is not a weapon of mass destruction, but in view of its long term effects – to establish an additional protocol to the Geneva Convention of October 1980 known as the "Convention on Inhuman Weapons" to prohibit the use of depleted uranium weapons and cluster bombs;
 33. *Reminds* the international community of the importance of doing its utmost to resolve peacefully the issues mentioned in this resolution and of expressing its firm commitment to international cooperation on such issues and to contribute to the peace and stability of the world, through dialogue between parliamentarians and cooperation with the relevant international organisations;
 34. *Invites* the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contact on an annual basis the parliaments which have not ratified the international treaties mentioned in the present resolution with a view to encouraging them to do so.
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Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Egypt, Sudan, Indonesia and Argentina for the inclusion of an emergency supplementary item entitled

"THE NEED TO PUT AN URGENT END TO THE WAR IN IRAQ AND TO RE-ESTABLISH PEACE: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION"

Results

Affirmative votes 1095 Total of affirmative and negative votes.. 1310
 Negative votes 215 Four-fifth majority..... 1048
 Abstentions..... 105

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Algeria	14			Guinea	12			Portugal		12	
Andorra	5		5	Hungary	13			Republic of Korea		16	
Angola	12			Iceland		absent		Romania			14
Argentina	15			India		23		Russian Federation	20		
Australia		13		Indonesia	22			Rwanda		absent	
Austria	10			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Samoa			10
Bangladesh			20	Ireland	9	2		San Marino	2		8
Belarus	13			Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe	10		
Belgium	12			Italy	7	10		Saudi Arabia	13		
Bolivia	12			Japan		20		Singapore		11	
Brazil	20			Jordan	11			Slovenia	4		7
Bulgaria	2	10		Kazakhstan	9		4	South Africa	12		4
Burkina Faso	12			Kenya	14			Spain	6	9	
Burundi	12			Kuwait	10			Sri Lanka	13		
Cameroon	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic	11			Sudan	15		
Canada	15			Latvia	11			Suriname	10		
Cape-Verde	10			Lebanon	11			Sweden	12		
Chile	11	2		Liechtenstein	10			Switzerland	12		
China	23			Luxembourg	10			Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Colombia	10			Malaysia	14			Tajikistan	12		
Congo	11			Mali	12			Thailand	8		10
Costa Rica	11			Mauritania		absent		The fYR of Macedonia		11	
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mexico	19			Togo	11		
Croatia		absent		Monaco	10			Tunisia	10		
Cuba	13			Morocco	14			Turkey	18		
Cyprus	10			Mozambique	13			Uganda	13		
Czech Republic	5		8	Namibia	11			Ukraine		absent	
Denmark	7	5		Nepal			14	United Arab Emirates	11		
Ecuador	12			Netherlands	4	9		United Kingdom		17	
Egypt	18			New Zealand	11			United Republic of Tanzania	14		
El Salvador	12			Nicaragua	12			Uruguay	11		
Ethiopia	18			Niger	13			Venezuela	13		
Fiji	5	5		Norway	9	2		Viet Nam	18		
Finland	4	8		Pakistan		absent		Yemen	13		
France	17			Panama	11			Zambia	12		
Gabon	11			Peru	13		1				
Germany	19			Philippines		18					
Ghana	13			Poland		absent					
Greece	13										
Guatemala	12										

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the Conference which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Portugal, supported by Australia, Denmark, Italy, Latvia, Nepal, Netherlands, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain and United Kingdom for the inclusion of an emergency supplementary item entitled

"THE ENDING OF THE CONFLICT IN IRAQ, THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN ASSISTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ IN THEIR FUTURE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT; SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING OF THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND THE ROLE OF THE IPU IN SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS"

Results

Affirmative votes.....	430	Total of affirmative and negative votes .	1126
Negative votes	696	Four-fifth majority.....	901
Abstentions	289		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Algeria		14		Guinea			12	Portugal	12		
Andorra	5		5	Hungary	13			Republic of Korea	16		
Angola		12		Iceland	absent			Romania	14		
Argentina		15		India	23			Russian Federation		20	
Australia	13			Indonesia		22		Rwanda	absent		
Austria		10		Iran (Islamic Republic of)			18	Samoa	10		
Bangladesh			20	Ireland	11			San Marino	8		2
Belarus		13		Israel	12			Sao Tome and Principe	5		5
Belgium			12	Italy	10	5	2	Saudi Arabia		13	
Bolivia		12		Japan	20			Singapore	11		
Brazil			20	Jordan		11		Slovenia	7	4	
Bulgaria	10		2	Kazakhstan	5		8	South Africa	6	10	
Burkina Faso		12		Kenya		14		Spain	9	6	
Burundi		12		Kuwait		10		Sri Lanka			13
Cameroon			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic		11		Sudan		15	
Canada	13	2		Latvia	11			Suriname			10
Cape-Verde			10	Lebanon		11		Sweden	8		4
Chile	11	2		Liechtenstein		10		Switzerland	6		6
China		23		Luxembourg			10	Syrian Arab Rep.		13	
Colombia		10		Malaysia		14		Tajikistan			12
Congo		11		Mali		12		Thailand	18		
Costa Rica		11		Mauritania	absent			The FYR of Macedonia	11		
Côte d'Ivoire			13	Mexico		19		Togo		11	
Croatia	absent			Monaco			10	Tunisia		10	
Cuba		13		Morocco		14		Turkey		18	
Cyprus		10		Mozambique			13	Uganda		13	
Czech Republic	7		6	Namibia		11		Ukraine	absent		
Denmark	12			Nepal	14			United Arab Emirates		11	
Ecuador		12		Netherlands	13			United Kingdom	17		
Egypt		18		New Zealand			11	United Republic of Tanzania		14	
El Salvador		12		Nicaragua		12		Uruguay		11	
Ethiopia		18		Niger			13	Venezuela		13	
Fiji	10			Norway	4	7		Viet Nam		18	
Finland	12			Pakistan	absent			Yemen		13	
France		4	13	Panama		11		Zambia		12	
Gabon		11		Peru	2	12					
Germany	19			Philippines	18						
Ghana			13	Poland	absent						
Greece			13								
Guatemala	4	8									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the Conference which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Article 5.2 of the Statutes.

**THE NEED TO PUT AN URGENT END TO THE WAR IN IRAQ AND
TO RE-ESTABLISH PEACE: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

***Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 108th Conference
(Santiago de Chile, 10 April 2003)***

The 108th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Gravely concerned by the war in Iraq, a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, and its consequences for peace and stability in the region, and *expressing* profound sorrow for the victims amongst the civilian population, particularly women, children and the elderly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the UN Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming its adherence to the principle of maintaining the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Iraq,

Reaffirming the right of the people of Iraq to determine their own political future and to control their own natural resources,

Underlining the importance of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, and religious, ethnic and cultural diversity in the territory of Iraq at all times,

Stressing the urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, and *welcoming* UN Security Council resolution 1472 (2003) on the provision of humanitarian relief measures to the people of Iraq throughout the country on an equitable basis,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on the subject of women, peace and security,

Conscious of the role that the IPU must play in Iraq in promoting peace, democracy and cooperation through dialogue and by consolidating representative institutions,

1. *Affirms* the need to put an urgent end to the war in Iraq and to restore peace in the country;
2. *Emphasises* the importance of upholding international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations;
3. *Reaffirms* the fundamental importance of multilateralism and international cooperation in solving conflicts between States and, therefore, the war in Iraq, and *calls on* all States to cooperate fully with the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies;
4. *Requests* all parties to the armed conflict to abide strictly by their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Regulations especially those relating to the essential civilian needs of the people of Iraq;

* After the resolution was adopted, the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed a reservation on the text.

5. *Emphasises* that the United Nations is the only organisation authorised under the Charter to use force, and therefore *calls on* it to assume a monitoring role with regard to the full withdrawal of foreign troops from Iraq and to facilitate the restoration of peace, law and order;
 6. *Calls on* the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq, including the provision of clean water, sanitation, food, shelter and emergency health care, and *calls on* the United Nations to continue playing its central role in the provision of such assistance;
 7. *Calls on* the United Nations Security Council to lift the sanctions against Iraq as soon as possible in order to restore the necessary economic conditions for the survival of the population and the country's development;
 8. Reaffirms that the United Nations must assume a leading role in the post-war period, including the reconstruction process, and *stresses* that Iraq's wealth should not be used, nor its natural resources depleted, to implement the reconstruction process;
 9. *Calls on* all parties to ensure that women are fully integrated at all levels in the negotiation of peace agreements and that the resulting reconstruction programmes include a gender perspective reflecting the special needs and inputs of women and are based on equality and parity;
 10. *Emphasises* the contribution that the United Nations can make in promoting the rule of law and building effective State institutions in Iraq;
 11. *Underscores* the particular role the IPU can play in regard to democracy and representative institutions and thus contribute towards the rapid restoration of lasting peace in Iraq;
 12. *Stresses* that it is for the Iraqi people to choose their own political institutions, and *declares* that the Inter-Parliamentary Union stands ready to put its expertise at the service of those choices;
 13. *Recalls* that democracy is a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles, norms and standards, including those relating to human rights, freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, and in full respect for plurality of opinion and the common interest.
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Reports, Decisions, Resolutions and other texts of the IPU Council

REPORT ON THE PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

(Geneva, 17 and 18 February 2003)

*Noted by the IPU Council at its 172nd session
(Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)*

1. In June 2001, the IPU held the first ever global parliamentary conference on international trade which gave a powerful momentum to the process of creating a parliamentary dimension of the WTO. A number of similar initiatives followed suit, the most important of which was a parliamentary meeting held on the occasion of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November 2001. The latter meeting was prepared by IPU in close cooperation with the European Parliament.
2. Participants at the Doha parliamentary meeting agreed to establish a steering group entrusting it with the task of preparing a further parliamentary conference on trade issues. This body, known as the Post-Doha Steering Committee, is composed of representatives of some 30 national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies. The European Parliament and IPU, both of which were the driving forces behind the post-Doha process, hosted two sessions of the Committee in Brussels on 18-19 May 2002 and Geneva on 14-15 October 2002 respectively. The need to apply synergies in a joint parliamentary undertaking focusing on the WTO helped the IPU and the European Parliament to overcome some of their differences with regard to the format of the parliamentary dimension of the WTO and to create a solid foundation for the continuation of such collaboration in the future.
3. Following a period of intensive preparation carried out in close cooperation between the two co-organisers and the WTO Secretariat, the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO took place on the premises of the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) on 17 and 18 February 2003. It was attended by over 500 delegates, including some 260 MPs, from 77 countries and 21 international organisations. It is noteworthy that the Conference attracted four parliaments currently not represented in the IPU. Government representatives of 31 sovereign States from among WTO members attended the Conference in an observer capacity.
4. The Conference was co-chaired by Mr. S. Páez, President of the IPU Council, who addressed the inaugural session and officially declared the Conference open, and by Mr. R. Imbeni, Vice-President of the European Parliament. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. C. Westendorp y Cabeza, member of the European Parliament, and Mr. F. Thompson-Flôres, WTO Deputy Director-General.
5. As decided by the Post-Doha Steering Committee, the Conference agenda included three substantive items: *access to markets*; *development dimension of the multilateral trading system*; and *options for a parliamentary dimension of the WTO*. Each item was introduced by a panel of experts composed of one rapporteur and two or three discussants, some of whom were ambassadors directly involved in the WTO negotiations process. In addition, an interactive panel discussion on the theme *The need for a coherent policy framework of technical assistance and capacity-building* was held as part of the overall debate on the agenda item dealing with the Doha Development Agenda.
6. The rapporteur on the first theme was Mr. I. Guajardo Villarreal (Mexico), while Mr. P. Rübiger (European Parliament) and Ambassador M. Supperamaniam (Malaysia) were discussants on this item. The second theme was introduced by Mr. R.H. Davis (South Africa) as rapporteur, and by Ms. C. Ferrer (European Parliament) and Ambassador N. Iumba (Uganda) as discussants. The third theme was introduced by Mr. K. Chutikul (Thailand) as rapporteur, and by Ms. E. Mann (European Parliament), Baroness Hooper (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe), Mr. N. Lopes de Souza (Latin

American Parliament), and Mr. J. Mares (Commonwealth Parliamentary Association) as discussants. Finally, the panel on technical assistance and capacity-building included Ambassadors C. Trojan (European Union) and F. Ismail (South Africa) as well as senior representatives of the WTO, World Bank and UNCTAD. The panel was moderated by Prof. J.-P. Lehmann, Director of the Evian Group.

7. A total of 105 MPs took the floor in the debate, expressing their views, reacting to the ideas put forward by the rapporteurs and discussants in their introductory statements, and putting direct questions to the members of the panel on technical assistance and capacity-building. In his concluding remarks as the Conference Co-Chair, Mr. R. Imbeni (European Parliament) greatly appreciated the fact that the debate had been truly participatory, interactive and dynamic, all of which augured well for the future of the parliamentary process for the WTO.

8. At the Conference closing session, the participants adopted by consensus the text of the Final Declaration (see *Annex*) drafted by the Steering Committee. The Declaration calls for the inter-parliamentary process for the WTO to evolve around regular parliamentary meetings held initially once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conferences, and specifically refers to the forthcoming Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference (Cancún, 10-14 September 2003) as the occasion when the next session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO will hopefully take place. The Declaration calls upon the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament to work together to this end.

PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON THE WTO

Geneva, 17-18 February 2003

Organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament

FINAL DECLARATION

adopted by consensus on 18 February 2003

1. We, parliamentarians, assembled in Geneva for the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO to discuss matters relating to multilateral trade, are convinced of the need for a parliamentary dimension of WTO. Our objective is to enhance the transparency and accountability of WTO activities.
2. We are committed to promoting further trade liberalisation which should take into account national development policies within an equitable rules-based trading system. The accession of new countries to the WTO is crucial to enable it to become a truly universal organisation. Our goal is to promote trade that benefits people everywhere, enhances development and reduces poverty.
3. We therefore laud the objectives that are set out in the Doha Development Agenda, which puts the concerns of the developing countries at the centre of the multilateral trading system and gives them pride of place in the present round of negotiations. We welcome the fact that the Doha mandate tackles developing country concerns about access to export markets. We applaud the stated intent to phase out agricultural export subsidies, and we acknowledge that the establishment of the Global Trust Fund, to which every developed country should contribute, will greatly increase the resources available for technical assistance in the area of implementation.
4. Nonetheless, the developments that have occurred since the Doha Ministerial Meeting give grounds for serious concern. Progress reported so far is not encouraging and negotiating deadlines set in Doha have come and gone without result. We regret that the deadlines on special and differential treatment for developing countries, and on making the TRIPS Agreement more flexible in order to improve access to

medicines, have not been met. An alternative emergency solution for certain pandemics must be implemented.

5. Similarly we are worried at the lack of advances on the fundamental issue of enhancing real access to markets. It is crucial that agreement is reached on reducing barriers to trade in the field of agriculture, textiles and clothing. Agricultural support in wealthy countries, taken globally, is about four times the amount that is paid out in development assistance to the poor nations of the world. We consider that such trade distorting practices, and their social consequences are unacceptable.

6. We are wholeheartedly committed to raising these issues in our parliaments and engaging our respective trade negotiators in a dialogue and, at the same time, continuing our ongoing parliamentary process relating to the WTO, especially in the lead up to the next Ministerial Meeting in Cancun.

7. We do so because we believe that the days when foreign policy, and more specifically trade policy were the exclusive domain of the executive branch are over. International relations are shaping domestic policies, and external relations have become part of the domestic agenda. Without the introduction of substantive and procedural checks and balances similar to those that are usually applied to domestic policy-making, this tendency will inevitably cause a deficit in democracy at the international level. Real democratic participation is an important goal which has to be linked with the democratic transformation of the entire structure and content of global economic governance. The present initiative and subsequent work are the necessary foundations for this ultimate democratisation objective. We are thus acutely aware of the need for parliaments to participate in the running of public affairs that transcend national borders.

8. WTO is rapidly becoming more than a mere trade organisation. Unlike most international treaties, WTO agreements not only bind nations with regard to the definition of common objectives, but also provide for their enforcement through an effective dispute settlement mechanism. The WTO's decisions have a growing impact on services, utilities, intellectual property rights, government procurement, public health, education, employment, food safety and the environment, as well as the management of natural resources such as forests, fisheries and water.

9. The parliaments from the various nations of the world, as legitimate representatives of their populations, have played a pioneering role in the peaceful evolution of societies. A parliamentary interface is necessary to ensure a better representation of citizens in the multilateral negotiating process. Parliaments embody the sovereignty of the people and can, in all legitimacy, contribute to expressing the will of the people internationally. Their role is also to help citizens understand and cope with the challenges that globalisation poses to their daily lives, and incorporate their concerns into national and multilateral policy.

10. We therefore stress the importance of promoting the parliamentary dimension to the WTO. Building upon the progress and common understandings from previous meetings of the post-Doha Steering Committee, we are determined to push forward the inter-parliamentary process with the WTO which would evolve around regular parliamentary meetings held initially once a year and on the occasion of WTO Ministerial Conferences. We propose that these events be called Parliamentary Conferences on the WTO.

11. The objective of this exercise would be to oversee and promote the effectiveness of WTO activities; maintain dialogue with governmental negotiators and civil society; and facilitate information exchange, sharing of experiences and capacity-building for national parliaments in matters of international trade, in particular, concerning the WTO, and to exert influence on the direction of discussions within the WTO.

12. We call upon the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the European Parliament, as joint organisers of this meeting, to implement and work on agreed objectives adopted consensually by the post-Doha Steering Committee. We hope to meet at the forthcoming Ministerial Conference in Cancun to take stock of progress made.

HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION TO COLOMBIA

Report of the Executive Committee endorsed by the IPU Council at its 172nd session (Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)

1. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is at present examining several cases of former and incumbent members of the Colombian Congress. They concern six members of parliament belonging to the Unión Patriótica who were assassinated between 1986 and 1994; the case of one Unión Patriótica MP who, because of death threats, was forced into exile; the case of an MP who had been kidnapped by a paramilitary group, received death threats and has been the target of attempts on her life, and finally the case of six MPs who have been taken hostage by FARC, the main Colombian guerrilla group.
 2. The Committee and the Council have consistently expressed concern that only little progress, if any, has been made in these cases since they were referred to the Committee. As regards the Unión Patriótica cases, only the murderers of Mr. Jaramillo Ossa and Mr. Cepeda Vargas have been identified, and only in the latter case were they arrested. There are serious doubts whether those convicted of Mr. Cepeda's murder, two military officers, are actually serving their sentences. No steps seem to have been taken to execute the arrest warrants issued for paramilitary leader Carlos Castaño in these cases. As for the MPs held by FARC, some of them since 2000, their release is uncertain. In view of this worrying situation, the Council therefore requested the Committee to carry out an on-site mission to share with the competent authorities the IPU's concerns about these cases, to gather first-hand information from them and the other parties concerned, and to offer the assistance of the IPU in helping to obtain the release of the FARC hostages.
 3. Following the approval of the Colombian authorities and taking up their suggestion for it to take place in the week starting 31 March, and following consultations with the Committee members, the Secretary General, accompanied by the Committee's Secretary, carried out the mission on 31 March and 1 April. In addition to meeting the Presidents of both Chambers of the Colombian Congress and the Chairpersons of their Human Rights Committee, the mission met the Vice-President of the Republic and the Director of the Human and Humanitarian Rights Programme of his Office, the High Commissioner for Peace, the President of the Supreme Court, the Attorney General and the Director of the Human Rights Unit of his Office, members of the group established to facilitate contact with FARC, members of the political opposition, human rights NGOs, lawyers involved in some of the cases, and families of the FARC hostages.
 4. The mission, which received the full cooperation of the Colombian Parliament, was able to gather important information on the cases of murder, death threats and attacks. Most importantly, the authorities gave it assurances of their cooperation in the future. As for the politicians held by FARC, the mission noted the declared intention of the authorities to reach a humanitarian agreement regarding their release. However, it was also made aware of the many obstacles to securing such an agreement and the risk to the hostages' lives from the ongoing military operations. The mission, which will issue its written report shortly, is convinced that the only solution lies in the rapid conclusion of a humanitarian agreement.
 5. The Executive Committee therefore recommends that the IPU and its member parliaments take initiatives in support of concluding a humanitarian agreement between the Colombian Government and FARC to put an end to the plight of fellow MPs held by it and pave the way for peace negotiations.
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MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTIES TO THE CSCM PROCESS

Report noted by the IPU Council at its 172nd session (Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)

Discussions of the CSCM session were dominated by the future of the CSCM, specifically the constitution of the Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean States. Although opposing views emerged as to the order of priority of the questions to be covered within the CSCM and whether the present timing was propitious for the establishment of such an Assembly, there was an overall consensus that the CSCM process needs to continue and be strengthened. After much discussion, the representatives agreed to:

- Hold a meeting of the Coordinating Committee open to all members of the CSCM process on the occasion of the 109th Assembly in Geneva;
- Engage in broad consultations with the CSCM membership regarding the future of the process, particularly on the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean States, and present a report containing proposals for an effective programme of future activities of the CSCM;
- Appoint Mr. Salles from France as Chair of the Coordinating Committee and the CSCM process for a two-year period, to direct this process and to lead the consultation;
- Appoint Ms. E. Papadimitriou (Greece) and Mr. A. Radi (Morocco) as Rapporteurs of the process for a two-year period, to prepare the report for the meeting;
- Accept, in principle, the proposal of Greece to host the Fourth Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, to be held in Athens in 2004 on the eve of the Olympic Games. The rapporteurs will also be in charge of establishing a preliminary agenda for this Conference, following prior consultation with the parties to the process and the approval of the proposal at the CSCM meeting.

The Italian delegate, Ms. M.C. Ioannucci, presented a summary of the memoranda prepared by Morocco, Italy, Tunisia, Algeria, France, Malta, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the subject: *Co-development and partnership – the question of direct investment and the debt problem*. After a brief exchange of views, the participants agreed to submit the summary to their respective parliaments for action to be taken on the recommendations in the report. Their comments and subsequent action relating to the report would then be submitted to the Secretariat and discussed at the next CSCM meeting to be held in Geneva.

The parties accepted the request for affiliation submitted by the Parliament of Germany to become the twelfth associate participant in the process.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARLIAMENTS FOR PROMOTING THE UNIVERSALISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTIPERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

Endorsed by the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law and noted by the IPU Council at its 172nd session (Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)

Introduction

Parliamentarians have a rich history of action relating to the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel mines and on their Destruction*; in 1996 the IPU's Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law launched its world inquiry on parliamentary action on the banning of anti-personnel mines. In 1999, the Inter-Parliamentary Council approved a report inviting parliamentarians to take action to encourage the implementation and universal acceptance of the Convention. And, for over a decade individual parliamentarians have tirelessly striven to end the humanitarian suffering caused by anti-personnel mines.

The Convention has been in effect for over four years and significant progress has been made. Efforts are now under way to prepare for the Convention's First Review Conference, to be held in late 2004, where this progress will be measured and future tasks will be assessed. In preparing for this important event, the Convention's States Parties have recognised that their efforts should focus with even greater clarity on those areas most directly related to the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention:

- Ensuring universal acceptance of the ban on anti-personnel mines;
- Destroying anti-personnel mines that remain in stockpiles;
- Clearing mined areas; and
- Providing assistance to landmine survivors.

In contributing to the pursuit of these aims, parliamentarians – given their particular competencies and opportunities for action – have a crucial role to play. By undertaking a variety of efforts in advance of the 2004 Review Conference, parliamentarians would both help ensure that the Convention fulfils its promise as an important humanitarian instrument and send a strong signal about the ongoing central role of parliaments in this process.

1. Promoting universal acceptance of the Convention

As of 1 April 2003, 131 States had formally accepted the Convention. However, important States remain outside of the Convention. In addition, several States with less strongly held opposition to the Convention could join it in time for the Review Conference if encouraged to do so. To promote universal acceptance of the Convention, parliamentarians may wish:

- To focus more intensive parliamentary dialogue on a select group of States to ensure their acceptance of the Convention in time for the Review Conference;
- To maintain frequent contact to share ideas and cooperation on initiatives aimed at promoting acceptance of the Convention;
- To see that a representative of the IPU's Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law participates in broader efforts to promote the Convention, such as the Convention's informal *Universalisation Contact Group*;

2. Ensuring the fulfilment of national responsibilities to clear mined areas and to assist victims

Approximately 45 States Parties to the Convention have mined areas under their control or jurisdiction. In addition, about 40 States Parties may require assistance in providing for the care and rehabilitation of

landmine victims. Clearing mined land and providing assistance to victims are important national responsibilities. To help ensure fulfilment of these responsibilities, parliamentarians may wish:

- As parliamentarians from mine-affected States, to take the necessary steps to ensure that mine action is an important priority within overall national development plans and poverty reduction strategies;
- As parliamentarians from mine-affected States, to take urgent action to reinforce national health-care systems, rehabilitation services, social and economic reintegration initiatives and human rights legislation to take into consideration the needs of landmine survivors.

3. Ensuring the destruction of antipersonnel mines stockpiled

On 1 March, 45 States Parties were required to comply with the Convention's first deadline for stockpile destruction and all 45 have indicated that they have done so. An additional 14 States Parties must destroy their stocks by the end of 2004. To help ensure that these mines will never be found in the ground, parliamentarians may wish:

- To seek assurances from their governments that all appropriate measures are being taken to comply with this obligation.

4. Ensuring a renewal of the commitment required to implement the Convention

Traditional donor States, mine-affected States, multilateral organizations and the private sector have generated more than USD 1.3 billion over the past six years to support the fulfilment of the aims of the Convention. However, much more will be required over the next few years. To ensure sufficient resources are in place, parliamentarians may wish:

- To take the necessary steps to ensure that mine action is an important element of national development and development assistance programming.

5. Promoting full domestic compliance with the Convention

No entity exists to police respect for the Convention. Rather, ensuring compliance with the Convention is a domestic responsibility, as noted in Article 9 of the Convention which calls for States Parties to take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention. With this in mind, parliamentarians may wish:

- To establish, if it has not yet done so, national legislation and other measures in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

Conclusion

Since the establishment of the Convention in 1997, the importance of parliamentary action to combat the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines has not diminished. It is hoped that the actions suggested in this paper will provide a starting point for renewed efforts by MPs between now and the 2004 Review Conference.

States not Parties to the Convention (March 2003)

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, China, Cook Islands, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Timor Leste, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL ON TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN

*Noted by the IPU Council at its 172nd session
(Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)*

The following recommendations are the outcome of the discussions held during the Panel on "Trafficking of Children", which took place on 9 April 2003.

I. Recommendations to Parliaments

- (a) Ensure ratification of the following international instruments:
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
 - The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Convention);
 - The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption;
 - The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;
 - The Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children;
 - ILO Convention N° 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- (b) Harmonise legislation to prohibit and punish child trafficking
- Promote public education on the inherent violation of human rights that such trafficking involves;
 - Ensure that national legislation prohibits child trafficking and provides a legal framework to enforce the law;
 - Propose appropriate sanctions to punish traffickers, intermediaries and exploiters.
- (c) Adopt and enforce legislation to protect child victims of trafficking
- Guarantee that children are treated as victims of trafficking;
 - Guarantee adequate services for child victims in the fields of health (physical and psychological), education and training, temporary shelter and legal protection;
 - Identify certain forms of trafficking that take advantage of loopholes in national legislation and shortcomings in law enforcement, and take the necessary measures to strengthen existing legislation and legal mechanisms in order to put an end to this "borderline" activity;
 - Ensure that enforcement measures are adequately funded and operate effectively, expediently and humanely.

- (d) Provide support for developing policies and programmes to prevent child trafficking and to protect and assist trafficked children
 - Ensure that social budgeting for prevention measures targets the root causes of trafficking, through poverty alleviation, education, promotion of gender equality and non-discrimination, protection of children without caregivers, law enforcement, training of police officers and social workers, health and social services which help these children to readjust and become rehabilitated;
 - Support the development of national plans of action to prevent and eliminate child trafficking;
 - Grant humanitarian visas and accord refugee status to trafficked children.
- (e) Form regional and international alliances to eliminate child trafficking
 - Foster regional and international cooperation to improve the status of women and children in their countries of origin;
 - Work for regional cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, through such instruments as memoranda of understanding and bilateral agreements between bordering countries;
 - Strengthen partnerships with international and intergovernmental organisations to improve policy coordination and facilitate scheduled actions;
 - Include the topic of child trafficking in the agenda of future regional parliamentary meetings.

II. Recommendations to Parliamentarians

- (a) Heighten awareness
 - Ask the men and women MPs who are most aware of the problem to promote debate and specific measures in their parliaments;
 - Use the influence of MPs to effectively raise the issue of child trafficking as a violation of human rights and an international criminal offence.

III. Recommendations to the Inter-Parliamentary Union and International Cooperation

- (a) Ensure follow-up and reporting
 - Introduce a system within the IPU making it possible to monitor progress with regard to adoption and laws against child trafficking. Ask the Inter-Parliamentary Council to study the possibility of establishing, as soon as possible, a sub-committee on "Protection of Children" which would be responsible for following up the panel and other questions concerning children's rights.
- (b) Provide assistance to parliaments
 - Prepare a handbook for parliamentarians on legislation relating to child trafficking, emphasising the use of good practices in all regions, with the help of UNICEF, IPEC/ILO and other international organisations.

(c) Design projects

- Design projects to support key activities to implement a worldwide and region-wide programme of work for MPs on child trafficking.

IV. Conclusions

From the above, and from the revised recommendations, it is clear that men and women MPs have a key role to play in order to combat child trafficking and especially:

- (i) To ratify the international instruments, bring domestic legislation into line with these instruments, approve funding and special budgets for prevention, assistance and the elimination of child trafficking; to promote legislation providing for enforcement mechanisms for the effective application of penalties for traffickers, exploiters and intermediaries; to oversee the application of these mechanisms;
 - (ii) To strengthen international cooperation under multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements associating governmental and non-governmental bodies, particularly in border areas;
 - (iii) To promote awareness among the public in general and particularly among the communities which parliamentarians represent in their respective Chambers by supporting good practices and earmarking adequate funding for practical solutions providing relief to the victims of trafficking.
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PREPARATIONS FOR A SECOND CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS

Recommendations approved by the IPU Council at its 172nd session (Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)

1. The first ever Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments took place in New York on the eve of the Millennium Summit in 2000. It focused on how best to provide a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation. The Speakers participating in the event called on parliaments and their members to assume increased responsibility in international relations.
2. They suggested that this objective could be achieved primarily by playing a more active role at the national, regional and global levels as follows:
 - At the national level, by reviewing, improving and making better use of parliament's procedures so that it can effectively influence policy on matters dealt with in international negotiating forums, be better informed of the progress and outcome of these negotiations, engage in the ratification of agreements and contribute actively to the implementation process;
 - At the regional level, by making best possible use of existing regional parliamentary organisations and, through them, seek to influence the corresponding inter-governmental bodies; and
 - At the global level, by consolidating the Inter-Parliamentary Union as the world organisation for inter-parliamentary cooperation and for relaying the vision and will of its members to intergovernmental organisations.

3. In the days that followed, the Heads of State and government adopted the Millennium Declaration. In the declaration they established clear development goals for the international community to achieve within specific time limits. In order to make this possible, they also called for further reform of the United Nations. Part of that reform, they stated, must entail strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through the IPU in areas such as: peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights, democracy and gender issues.

4. Since then, the IPU and the United Nations have taken a number of steps. The IPU is completing a reform process which aims in part to make it possible for the organisation to provide a better parliamentary dimension to international cooperation. The IPU has also obtained a new status at the UN which should allow it to bring the voice of the people to the United Nations. Moreover, the IPU has moved to strengthen its practical cooperation with the United Nations in a variety of fields covered by the Millennium Declaration. The organisation is also enhancing its visibility, not least by moving into new headquarters premises in Geneva – The House of Parliaments.

5. For its part, the United Nations has launched a follow-up process to the Millennium Summit which aims at encouraging States to make progress towards achieving the Millennium Goals and to keep track of that progress. Benchmarks and indicators have been established and a reporting process has been set in motion. A major report will be prepared by the UN Secretary-General on implementation and presented to UN Member States in 2005.

6. There is a need to ensure that the declaration adopted by the Presiding Officers Conference is put into effect by parliaments, specifically by taking concrete steps to strengthen their ability to assume increased responsibilities in international relations. By assuming responsibility for prompting, monitoring and reporting on follow-up, the IPU would place itself at the forefront of the debate on the democracy deficit in international relations. Moreover, it would put the Organisation in a good position to provide a major contribution to the evaluation of the Millennium Declaration that will take place in 2005.

7. Based on these considerations, the Executive Committee recommends that the IPU set up its own follow-up mechanism that would lead to a second Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments in 2005.

8. The mechanism for such a process could mirror the one which was put in place in 1998 to prepare the first Conference. On that occasion a Preparatory Committee composed of Presiding Officers and some members of the Executive Committee was set up. The Executive Committee recommends that such a Committee be established and that its composition be decided upon by the Governing Council at its 173rd session in October 2003.

9. The Executive Committee recommends further that the Preparatory Committee be given the following mandate:

- To make proposals for and subsequently evaluate activities to be carried out by the IPU over the next 24 months aiming at identifying action taken by parliaments to follow up on the recommendations made by the first Conference of Presiding Officers that relate to providing a parliamentary dimension to international cooperation;
 - To assess action taken by parliaments in support of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and identify best practices; and
 - To prepare a Second Conference of Presiding Officers by National Parliaments.
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ROLE OF THE RAPORTEURS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Recommendations endorsed by the IPU Council at its 172nd session (Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)

1. Parliamentary rapporteurs will be called upon to play a pivotal role in preparing the work of the new Standing Committees. It is therefore important that the rapporteurs:
 - Are well versed in the subjects that have been chosen for study by the Standing Committee,
 - Have sufficient time at their disposal to perform the task within a reasonable and agreed timeframe,
 - Are able to communicate in the same language, and
 - Are able to prepare together a report that reflects the realities and views of developing and industrialised countries whenever relevant to the subject matter.
2. The drafting of the reports is a process driven by the rapporteurs themselves. At the initial stage, the two rapporteurs for each Committee independently draft their version of the report. Once this process is completed, and it is foreseen that this stage may take some two months, the rapporteurs are invited to meet in Geneva or elsewhere for the purpose of merging their two texts into a single report. Alternatively, this can be done through the Internet. The IPU Secretariat is available to provide assistance at this stage.
3. Once a preliminary draft of the report has been prepared with the assistance of the IPU Secretariat, it is sent to the full membership for their comments. The same process applies to the draft resolutions which will have been prepared independently by each rapporteur and then merged into a single document. An effort will be made to ensure that these documents reach delegates some three months before the Standing Committees meet.
4. The rapporteurs themselves are exclusively responsible for the contents of the report. It is the expression of their personal judgement on the subject in question, although they are of course free to avail themselves of the services of the research departments of their parliaments. Moreover, while the two rapporteurs are encouraged to align their views in the form of a single cohesive document, the report may nonetheless reflect divergent opinions in areas where the two rapporteurs do not agree.
5. The rapporteurs are thus entirely free to accept or reject any input they receive from the members for the report. Once the report has been amended to incorporate points submitted by the IPU membership, it is once again sent to the full membership, this time in its final form. As such, it has the status of a background paper designed to enrich the discussions to be held in the Standing Committee. It does not represent the collective view of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.
6. The above principle does not apply to the draft resolution, since the final resolution to be adopted by the Assembly is a vehicle for the views of the full membership. The rapporteurs will therefore use their best judgment to incorporate, as they see fit, the substance of all of the suggestions for its content submitted by the membership. The amended draft resolution should be sent to the IPU membership sufficiently in advance to allow delegates to study the revised draft before leaving to attend the Assembly.
7. It will be the responsibility of the Standing Committee itself to decide whether the draft resolution should be finalised in the full Committee or in a drafting committee. When taking a decision on this matter, the Standing Committee will take into account the number of additional amendments that have been received.
8. Finally, the task of the rapporteurs does not end once the report is adopted, since they are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations contained in the resolution and reporting to the Committee on such follow-up activities. They will therefore be asked to assist in designing questionnaires, analysing responses and drafting progress reports.

Future Meetings and other Activities

*Approved by the IPU Council at its 172nd session
(Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)*

Seminar for South-West Asian Parliaments on Parliament and the budgetary process, including from a gender perspective, organised by the IPU	COLOMBO (Sri Lanka) 26-28 May 2003
Parliamentary panel in the framework of the WTO Symposium (to be followed by a half-day session of the Post-Doha Steering Committee), sponsored by the IPU	GENEVA 17 June 2003
Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the 5 th International Conference of New or Restored Democracies (18-20 June), organised by the IPU and the Parliament of Mongolia	ULAANBAATAR (Mongolia) 19 June 2003
102 nd session of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	GENEVA (IPU Headquarters) June 2003
Fifth Round Table of Parliamentarians on " <i>The role of members of parliament in promoting sustainable development at national level within the framework of the implementation of the UNCCD</i> ", organised by the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification and sponsored by the IPU	HAVANA (Cuba) 3-4 September 2003
Cancún session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, held on the occasion of the 5 th WTO Ministerial Conference, organised by the IPU and the European Parliament in cooperation with the Mexican Congress	CANCUN (Mexico) 8-9 September 2003
109 th Assembly and Related Meetings	GENEVA (CICG) 29 September – 3 October 2003
Parliamentary meeting on the occasion of the launch of the network of focal points in parliaments for matters relating to UNESCO, to be held during the UNESCO General Conference	PARIS (UNESCO) October 2003
International Seminar on the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in the process of reconciliation, organised by the Spanish Committee of the UNHCR, sponsored by the IPU	VALENCIA/ALICANTE (Spain) October 2003
UN-IPU Meeting of parliamentarians attending the 58 th session of the UN General Assembly, organised by the IPU	NEW YORK October-November 2003

Information Seminar on the Structure and Functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

GENEVA (IPU Headquarters)
November-December 2003

Four-day Seminar for Chairpersons and Members of Parliamentary Human Rights Bodies, followed by a two-day Seminar on Freedom of Expression, organised by the IPU

GENEVA
Second week of December 2003

One-day Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), organised by the IPU

GENEVA
December 2003

110th Assembly and Related Meetings

LONDON (United Kingdom)
28 March - 3 April 2004

Invitations received

112th Assembly and Related Meetings

MANILA (Philippines)

114th Assembly and Related Meetings

NAIROBI (Kenya)

116th Assembly and Related Meetings

ADDIS ABABA (Ethiopia)

AGENDA OF THE 109th ASSEMBLY

(Geneva, 29 September – 3 October 2003)

***Approved by the IPU Council at its 172nd Session
(Santiago, 12 April 2003)***

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 109th Assembly
2. Consideration of possible requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. The role of parliaments in assisting multilateral organisations in ensuring peace and security and in building an international coalition for peace (*Committee on Peace and International Security*)
4. Global public goods: a new challenge for parliaments (*Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*)
5. The contribution of new information and communication technologies to good governance, the improvement of parliamentary democracy and the management of globalisation (*Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)

**LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER BODIES INVITED
TO FOLLOW THE WORK OF THE 109th ASSEMBLY AS OBSERVERS**

*Approved by the IPU Council at its 172nd Session
(Santiago de Chile, 12 April 2003)*

Palestine

United Nations (UN)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Bank
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

African Union (AU)
Council of Europe
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Latin American Economic System (LAES)
League of Arab States
Organization of American States (OAS)

ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA)
African Parliamentary Union (APU)
Amazonian Parliament
Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO)
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie
Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU)
Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP)
Baltic Assembly
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
Confederation of Parliaments of the Americas (COPA)
European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA)
Indigenous Parliament of the Americas
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community
Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States
Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU)
Inter-Parliamentary Council against Antisemitism
Maghreb Consultative Council
Nordic Council
Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (PABSEC)
Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation
Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation (PAEAC)
Parliamentary Union of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Members (PUOICM)
Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC)

Amnesty International
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

Organisation invited to follow the work of the 109th Assembly in the light of its agenda item on Communication technology and good governance:

International Telecommunications Union (ITU)