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**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN NATIONAL
SECURITY, HUMAN SECURITY AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS,
AND IN AVERTING THE THREAT TO DEMOCRACY**

***Revised preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs
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The 118th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Recalling* the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular the right to life, liberty and security of person, and that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family,
- (2) *Recognizing* the multidimensional nature of human security and *noting* that the understanding of human security must be dynamic and flexible in order to meet the many different human security priorities of different regions,
- (3) *Also recognizing* that factors such as poverty, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, pollution and natural disasters, and human rights violations, and factors such as inter-State conflicts, terrorism, illegal migration, human trafficking, and organized crimes adversely affect democracies across the world,
- (4) *Aware* that international terrorism poses a major threat to national security, human security and individual freedoms all over the world,
- (5) *Profoundly concerned* at human rights violations, including detention without trial, secret detention centres, surveillance impinging on individual rights, and extradition to countries which practise torture,
- (6) *Affirming its belief* that torture has no place in the 21st century as it is one of the most abhorrent violations of human rights and human dignity,
- (7) *Acknowledging* the interdependence between national security, human security, individual freedoms and democracy,
- (8) *Recognizing* the contribution of parliaments to and their impact on international decisions in promoting consensus on these issues both domestically and internationally which is necessary for concerted and effective action,

1. *Urges* parliaments to enact legislation that will assist countries in ensuring a balance between human security, national security and individual freedoms;
2. *Strongly urges* parliaments to commit to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals as a means of addressing underdevelopment and preventing the marginalization of many in the developing world;
3. *Calls on* parliaments to acknowledge the link between security, development and human rights as recognized in the World Summit Outcome Document, with an understanding that the key is to establish the causes and sources of human insecurity and work to address these effectively; and *further calls on* parliamentarians to strive to address human security by tackling all current forms of insecurity globally in the economic, social and humanitarian spheres;
4. *Strongly emphasizes* that parliaments need to oversee executive action, including budget votes, to ensure that all these instruments actually strike a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and to avert the threat to democracy;
5. *Recognizes* the importance and independence of the courts in striking a balance between national security, human security and individual freedoms, and to avert the threat to democracy;
6. *Urges* parliaments to ensure an effective system of public participation in the work of parliament; *invites* parliaments to play a pivotal role in sensitizing citizens to their constitutional rights, to open two-way channels of communication with citizens that are likely to strengthen parliamentary oversight of executive action, and to ensure that the government is committed to respecting the rights and freedoms of citizens; and *also invites* parliaments to use to this end modern information and communication technologies such as the Internet and satellite channels;
7. *Encourages* national governments to redouble their efforts to reach international consensus on a definition of terrorism through opportunities presented by the United Nations;
8. *Calls on* parliaments to review the adequacy of the legal measures they have in place to protect people from terrorist attacks and to bring perpetrators to justice, and to take such measures as deemed necessary to provide adequate protection;
9. *Urges* national parliaments to enact effective anti-terrorism legislation, in keeping with relevant international instruments and commitments, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to assess such laws at regular intervals so as to ensure that they are fully compatible with national security and individual freedoms;
10. *Calls on* parliaments to scrutinize closely all measures to limit the freedoms of individuals;

11. *Condemns* the oppression and discrimination of which ethnic and religious minorities are victims and *urges* parliaments to pass laws that guarantee the rights of minorities, identify all acts of oppression and discrimination perpetrated against them and, consequently, provide for sanctions against the perpetrators of such acts;
12. *Invites* governments to certify formally that their proposals limiting liberty are indeed in compliance with international law, and human rights in particular;
13. *Invites* national parliaments to consider whether any further improvements can be made within their own jurisdictions to protect both human security and individual freedoms;
14. *Encourages* national parliaments to ratify and implement the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (22 June 2006);
15. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Human Rights Council, which came into being by virtue of UN General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and the proposed universal periodic review mechanism;
16. *Urges* those parliaments that have not already done so to establish a standing committee on human rights that is invested with the necessary powers to oversee the action of State organs, ensuring that they respect and protect human rights and identifying any violation or disregard thereof;
17. *Calls on* parliaments to monitor the range and quantity of surveillance and data collection by public and private organizations and to gauge any changes in the balance between the citizen and the State. Parliaments must ensure that laws are framed and enforced in such a way as to take account of fast-moving technological developments;
18. *Calls on* parliaments to exercise oversight over the working of law enforcement and security agencies so as to enforce their accountability in protecting fundamental individual freedoms while performing their public duties;
19. *Emphasizes* the need for training of security forces in order to sensitize them to human rights while dealing with terrorism and related activities;
20. *Recommends* that national governments work towards greater regional cooperation with regard to implementing anti-terrorism strategies and establishing anti-terrorism centres;
21. *Strongly urges* all parliaments to consolidate their efforts to strengthen inter-governmental cooperation to reach a global consensus on the early conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) so as to establish a common international standard in the form of a comprehensive legal instrument for all countries in fighting the scourge of terrorism;
22. *Calls on* all parliaments and *urges* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop training programmes designed to build the capacity of parliamentarians in order to address complex issues in an effective manner.