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Third Standing Committee
Democracy and Human Rights

C-III/122/ DR-am
15 March 2010

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS

Amendments to the revised preliminary draft resolution submitted within the statutory deadline by the delegations of Canada, China, Egypt, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, and by Mr. Jalal Fairooz (Delegate of Bahrain)

PREAMBLE

Preambular paragraph 1

Amend to read as follows:

- (1) *Emphasizing* the need to prevent ~~and counter~~ all forms of discrimination on any grounds, including discrimination based on age, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),
(Egypt)

Amend to read as follows:

- (1) *Emphasizing* the need to prevent and counter all forms of discrimination ~~on any grounds~~, including discrimination based on age, in accordance with the principle of non-discrimination enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948),
(Morocco)

New preambular paragraph 3bis

Add a new preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 3 to read as follows:

- 3bis) *Underscoring* that youth participation in decision-making processes and a permanent dialogue with political leaders are crucial to the proper functioning of the democratic process and to the relevance of policies that affect young people,**
(Morocco)

Preambular paragraph 4

Amend to read as follows:

(4) *Recognizing* that children and young people are capable of forming their own views and should be assured the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting them, ~~the views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity,~~ as set forth in Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989),

(Morocco)

Preambular paragraph 5

Not applicable in English.

(Morocco)

New preambular paragraph 6bis

Add a new preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 6 to read as follows:

(6bis) *Recognizing the efforts made by parliamentarians and civil society organizations to address the economic, social, educational, cultural and spiritual needs of youth,*

(Indonesia)

Preambular paragraph 7

Delete paragraph.

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Stressing* the importance of enhancing young people's awareness of and commitment to human rights and democracy, the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in a spirit that is respectful of diversity, the combating of racism, xenophobia, **Islamophobia**, anti-Semitism, intolerance and all actions aimed at undermining democracy; and *considering* the importance of their contribution to social cohesion, especially by combating exclusion and preventing ills that affect young people in particular,

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Not applicable in English.

(Morocco)

Amend to read as follows:

(7) *Stressing* the importance of enhancing young people's awareness of and commitment to human rights and democracy, the promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in a spirit that is respectful of diversity, **gender equality**, the combating of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance, **gender-based violence** and all actions aimed at undermining democracy; and *considering* the importance of their contribution to social cohesion, especially by combating exclusion and preventing ills that affect young people in particular,

(Spain)

Preambular paragraph 8

Amend to read as follows:

(8) *Bearing in mind* that **greater** youth **democratic** participation ~~promotes active citizenship, which should be considered as an opportunity for enhancing democracy and placing new issues on~~ **may help issues of importance to young people to enter** the political agenda, **which may in turn enhance the quality of representative democracy,**

(Canada)

Preambular paragraph 8 and 11

Delete preambular paragraphs 8 and 11 and replace with a new paragraph to read as follows:

8) *Underscoring* that youth participation in public decision-making processes is the **optimal means of strengthening democracy, promoting human rights, instilling civic values and a sense of responsibility to society, in addition to building their communication and negotiating skills,**

(Egypt)

Preambular paragraph 9

Delete paragraph

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

(9) *Recognizing* the positive impact that youth participation **in the democratic process, notably** in the local, regional and global economy and in ~~social and economic~~ development **in general,** can have on the eradication of poverty and hunger, as well as on socially unacceptable and/or deviant behaviour,

(Morocco)

Preambular paragraph 10

Delete paragraph.

(Canada)

Preambular paragraph 11

Amend to read as follows:

(11) *Underscoring* that the involvement of children and young people in public decision-making processes offers important opportunities for civic engagement, education and learning about government, thus strengthening children's and young people's social responsibility and developing their communication, **and** negotiation ~~and conflict-resolution~~ skills, **their ability to resolve conflicts through peaceful means** and critical thinking,

(Spain)

New preambular paragraph 12bis

Add a new preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 12 to read as follows:

12bis) *Recalling that there are youth parliaments in some countries of IPU Members, such as Morocco,*

(Morocco)

Preambular paragraph 13

Amend to read as follows:

(13) *Reiterating the critical role of that both formal and non-formal education, that is, education provided in the home and by youth organizations, and the education acquired by participation in the third sector and in the broader community, prepare in the empowerment of young people for democratic active citizenship and recognizing the importance of informal learning,*

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

(13) *Reiterating the critical role of both formal and non-formal education and non-formal learning in the empowerment of young people for democratic citizenship and recognizing the importance of informal learning,*

(Greece)

Preambular paragraph 14

Amend to read as follows:

(14) *Highlighting the importance of creating the conditions for genuine dialogue and partnership between young people and local and national authorities, hence the need to initiate a genuine and structured dialogue with youth in order implement policy that meets their expectations and guarantees that policy decisions will be reviewed critically,*

(Morocco)

Preambular paragraph 16

Delete paragraph.

(Canada)

New preambular paragraph 16bis

Add a new preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 16 to read as follows:

(16bis) *Recognizing that young people care deeply about their political communities, and in many cases are active participants in informal political activities, such as online activism, boycotts/buycotts, and engagement with the third sector,*

(Canada)

Add a new preambular paragraph after preambular paragraph 16 to read as follows:

(16bis) Taking into consideration the needs and aspirations of internally displaced young people and disabled young people,

(Indonesia)

OPERATIVE PART

New operative paragraph 1bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 1 to read as follows:

1bis. Invites parliaments to set up, if they have not yet done so, specialized bodies entrusted with streamlining youth issues throughout parliament's work;

(Romania)

Operative paragraph 2

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Urges* parliaments to monitor the fulfilment of their respective government's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure children's right to be heard and express their views freely and without discrimination based on gender, age, social **and economic status** background, ethnicity, ~~and~~ disability, **race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion/affiliation;**

(Bahrain)

Amend to read as follows:

2. *Urges* parliaments to monitor the fulfilment of their respective government's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure children's right to be heard and express their views freely and without discrimination based on gender, age, social background, ethnicity, **religion** and disability;

(Sweden)

New operative paragraph 2bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 2 to read as follows:

2bis. Requests parliaments to create the necessary platform for youth participation in the democratic process by providing a basic level of education that is equal for everyone, with the same opportunities for boys and girls;

(Sweden)

Operative paragraph 3

Amend to read as follows:

3. *Invites* States, **parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU, and youth organizations** to encourage, promote and make more visible in all fields the initiative, enterprise and creativity of young people;

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

3. *Invites* States to encourage, promote and ~~make more visible~~ **involve** in all fields the initiative, enterprise and creativity of young people;

(Morocco)

New operative paragraph 5bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 5 to read as follows:

- 5bis. *Invites* parliaments, as part of efforts to promote youth participation in decision-making, to ensure that youth representatives are included in national delegations to the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant UN meetings;**

(Romania)

New operative paragraph 6bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 6 to read as follows:

- 6bis. *Requests* the IPU to take into consideration the different problems, challenges and priorities of youth depending on the different level of development of their respective societies, and, accordingly, the political, economic, social and cultural conditions prevailing in each country;**

(Egypt)

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 6 to read as follows:

- 6bis. *Calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to ensure that young people with disabilities and those who are socially and economically disadvantaged are offered equal opportunities to participate fully in society;**

(Romania)

Operative paragraph 7

Amend to read as follows:

7. *Encourages* the IPU and its Member Parliaments to develop tools to promote youth participation **in the democratic process**, ~~including, but not limited to, guidelines for participatory mechanisms or interactive policy participation forums on the Internet;~~

(Morocco)

Amend to read as follows:

7. *Encourages* the IPU and its Member Parliaments to develop tools to promote youth **knowledge of and participation in parliamentary democracy processes**, including, but not limited to, guidelines for participatory mechanisms or interactive policy participation forums on the Internet;

(Romania)

New operative paragraph 7bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 7 to read as follows:

- 7bis. Calls on IPU Member Parliaments to promote youth awareness of and participation in the political process by using modern technologies such as the Internet and text messages on mobile phones to reach out to young people and increase access to information on the democratic process;**

(Morocco)

Operative paragraph 8

Merge to read as follows:

8. *Calls on* parliaments to develop practical measures, ~~including quotas for young people,~~ to increase the participation of young people in parliament and other representative bodies, while respecting the values of human dignity, freedom, democracy and equality;

(France and Sweden)

Operative paragraph 9

Amend to read as follows:

9. *Recommends* that parliaments ~~align~~ **reduce** the minimum voting age **and align it** with the minimum age of eligibility to run for office in order to ensure greater participation by youth in parliaments;

(Bahrain)

Amend to read as follows:

9. ~~*Recommends*~~ **Urges** that parliaments ~~align~~ **to consider the minimum an appropriate** voting age ~~with the minimum~~ **and an appropriate** age of eligibility to run for office in order to ensure greater participation by youth in parliaments;

(Japan)

Operative paragraph 10

Amend to read as follows:

10. *Urges* States, **parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations** to promote greater participation by girls and young women by taking measures to eliminate gender stereotypes, promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

10. *Urges* States to promote greater participation by girls and young women by taking measures ~~to eliminate gender stereotypes~~, **aimed at** promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Amend to read as follows:

10. *Urges* States to promote greater participation by girls and young women by taking measures **likely** to eliminate gender stereotypes, promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life;

(Morocco)

Amend to read as follows:

10. *Urges* States to promote greater participation by girls and young women by taking measures to eliminate gender stereotypes, promoting role models and facilitating better reconciliation of work and family life, **by involving men in family responsibilities**;

(Spain)

Operative paragraph 11

Amend to read as follows:

11. *Invites* States, **parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations** to open up "adult institutions" and administrative bodies, particularly those with planning responsibilities, to young people's representatives and establish links between these institutions and young people in a spirit of complementarity and joint decision-making;

(Canada)

Operative paragraph 12

Amend to read as follows:

12. *Calls* on States to ensure through national legislation and/or targeted actions ~~the~~ **greater** participation of young people in political parties and elections at the local, national and regional levels;

(Bahrain)

Amend to read as follows:

12. *Calls* on States, **parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations** to ensure through national legislation and/or targeted actions the participation of young people in political parties and elections at the local, national and regional levels;

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

12. *Calls* on States to ensure through ~~national legislation and/or~~ targeted actions the participation of young people in political parties and elections at the local, national and regional levels;

(India)

Operative paragraph 14

Delete the paragraph.

(China)

Amend to read as follows:

14. *Urges* all States to introduce ~~compulsory courses in democracy and civic education in schools~~ **topics on democracy and civic education as an integral part of the compulsory courses in schools;**

(India)

Amend to read as follows:

14. *Urges* all States to introduce **the principle of co-education in primary schools and** compulsory courses in democracy and civic education in schools;

(Spain)

Operative paragraph 15

Amend to read as follows:

15. *Encourages States* to ensure adequate funding for ~~formal and non-formal~~ education **and non-formal learning**, including programmes aimed at fostering the acquisition of requisite skills for democratic participation of youth;

(Greece)

New operative paragraph 17bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 17 to read as follows:

- 17bis. *Urges governments, in particular the education ministry in the countries of IPU Members, to introduce in the school curriculum courses on the value of the democratic process and other ways and means of enhancing youth engagement in the political process in their respective countries;***

(Morocco)

Operative paragraph 19

Amend to read as follows:

19. *Urges States* **to remove the social, economic and cultural barriers affecting young women, and** to ensure **their** ~~young women's~~ equal access to education and vocational

training at all levels in order to provide them with equal opportunities for full participation in society, especially political participation;

(Romania)

Operative paragraph 20

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory courses for young men as part of the school curriculum in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues, **the problem of low rates of democratic participation by women, and the need to actively support female democratic participation;**

(Canada)

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory **education** ~~courses~~ for young men ~~as part of the school curriculum~~ in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues;

(China)

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory courses for young men **and young women** as part of the school curriculum in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues;

(France)

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce ~~gender-sensitive compulsory courses for young men as part of~~ **the concept of gender sensitivity as part of the compulsory courses** in the school curriculum in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues **and gender equity;**

(India)

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory courses **and courses on non-discrimination and rejecting gender-based violence** for young men **and women** as part of the school curriculum in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues;

(Spain)

Amend to read as follows:

20. *Encourages* States to introduce gender-sensitive compulsory courses for young men **and women** as part of the school curriculum in order to nurture their consciousness of gender issues;

(Sweden and Switzerland)

Operative paragraph 21

Delete paragraph.

(Canada)

New operative paragraph 21bis

Add a new operative paragraph after operative paragraph 21 to read as follows:

21bis. Encourages young students to strive harder to achieve excellence in their studies in order to obtain a seat on the Children’s Parliament;

(Morocco)

Operative paragraph 22

Amend to read as follows:

22. Encourages States to support voluntary ~~work~~ **service** by youth and internship programmes at all levels, whether locally, nationally, or internationally, to recognize and evaluate skills and knowledge gained through these activities, and in particular, to promote the participation of those young people who feel excluded from voluntary-sector activities;

(Greece)

Operative paragraph 27

Amend to read as follows:

27. Invites parliaments to facilitate the meaningful participation of ~~children and~~ young people in issues that affect them through consultation processes when drafting laws and during parliamentary hearings, to ensure that they contribute to debates on policy- and law-making, resource allocation, and to parliament’s efforts to hold government to account;

(Bahrain)

Operative paragraph 28

Amend to read as follows:

28. Calls on the IPU and its Member Parliaments to form caucuses of young parliamentarians ~~for the purpose of~~ **in order to** promoting youth participation, making young persons in politics more visible and reflecting the youth perspective in the political agenda;

(Morocco)

Operative paragraph 31

Amend to read as follows:

31. Welcomes the participation of young members of parliament in national parliamentary delegations and urges IPU Member Parliaments to ~~consider being represented by~~

systematically include young MPs ~~on a continuous basis at~~ **in their delegations to IPU Assemblies and other IPU meetings;**

(France)

New operative paragraphs 34bis

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 34 to read as follows:

34bis. Calls on the IPU to take the necessary action in order to propose and implement strict international legislation against the transmission of sexually explicit and violent content targeting young people, which promotes moral decay, terrorism, crime and illicit activities;

(Bahrain)

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 34 to read as follows:

34bis. Invites the IPU and its Member Parliaments to commemorate the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding by organizing parliamentary events with a meaningful participation from young people;

(Romania)

New paragraphs 34bis and 34ter

Add two new paragraphs after paragraph 34 to read as follows:

34bis. Recommends the development of national cooperative networks between policymakers, researchers, young people and youth organizations;

34ter. Encourages States, parliaments, parliamentarians, political parties, the IPU and youth organizations to develop policies and programmes which encourage democratic participation among young people who have left the formal school system, remembering that the term “youth” is much broader than the term “student”;

(Canada)

New operative paragraphs 34bis, 34ter, 34quater and 34quinquies

Add four new paragraphs after operative paragraph 34 to read as follows:

34bis. Calls for the holding of a conference for young parliamentarians under the auspices of the IPU before the World Youth Conference in August 2010, on the understanding that parliamentarians between the age of 30 and 40 years will be represented at this conference and that a document will be produced on the role of parliaments in fostering youth participation in the democratic process, the youth vision of politics and their future aspirations;

34ter. Encourages parliamentarians to attend sessions of the youth parliament in various countries so that they can bring to them their parliamentary experience and the vision of the national parliament for issues under discussion by youth parliaments;

- 34quater.** *Invites* the IPU Secretariat to prepare, with the assistance of experts and specialists, a guide to education and edification mechanisms for the political participation of youth with a view to monitoring best practices and experiences in the world and sharing them with IPU Member Parliaments in an attempt to improve governance and parliamentary practice in the area of democracy education;
- 34quiquies.** *Encourages* the IPU to launch a project for youth in the area of transparent and honest electoral values and standards, to be implemented in partnership with the UN Programme on Youth, under the UN Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD), and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

(United Arab Emirates)