



SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 129th IPU ASSEMBLY

Geneva

4–9 October 2013

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INTRODUCTION

The 129th IPU Assembly from 7 to 9 October 2013 took place in Geneva at the Centre International de Conférences Genève.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

Members: (Delegations from the Parliaments of 132 countries): Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor—Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Associate Members: Arab Parliament, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Latin American Parliament and Parliament of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC).

Observers: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, International Labour Office (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), World Trade Organization (WTO); (ii) African Union (AU); (iii) African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community (EURASEC), Inter-Parliamentary Union of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IPU-IGAD), Maghreb Consultative Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Member States (PUIC); (iv) Socialist International; and (v) Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)).

Of the 1,191 delegates who attended the Assembly, 539 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 40 presiding officers, 36 deputy presiding officers and 168 women (31.2%).

OPENING OF THE 129th ASSEMBLY**Sitting of Monday, 7 October**

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.30 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT, extending a warm welcome to all participants, said that in today's troubled times, with the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi and the relentless Syrian conflict as just two examples of the daily tragedies taking place around the world, peace and security headed the global agenda. The IPU had spoken out perpetually for freedom, peace and democracy, unequivocally championing political dialogue and negotiation as the only means to lasting peace in any conflict. It was therefore his fervent hope that peace in the Syrian conflict, which had featured as the emergency item at two recent Assemblies, could be advanced through the opportunity provided by the present gathering to bring together the various actors, particularly as the IPU had been prevented from dispatching a mission to the country.

The Assembly agenda was fully attuned to current events, as illustrated by the debates to take place in the Committee on United Nations Affairs on the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) relating to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Parliaments had a particular responsibility to ensure the early entry into force and implementation of that Treaty, a landmark legal instrument with a purpose that lay at the very heart of the IPU's work to further dialogue, peace and cooperation. The participation in the debate by the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 and by leading experts in the field offered a golden opportunity for legislators to deepen their understanding of the importance of non-proliferation, especially where non-State actors were concerned, and of their potential contribution to the development of effective legislative and regulatory measures at the national level. In the light of recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic, the implementation of that resolution had taken on a whole new dimension and was of crucial significance to all.

The IPU had a crucial role to play in helping the countries of the Arab Spring to surmount the enormous challenges involved in grappling with the novelty of newfound freedoms and incorporating the attendant rules and responsibilities of democracy. It was therefore keeping the channels of communication open with those countries and had worked closely with the Parliaments of Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. It was also providing technical assistance to the Parliaments of the Maldives and Myanmar. Since the adoption of the Quito Communiqué, moreover, it had been lobbying hard at the United Nations and in other relevant international forums for the inclusion of democratic governance in the post-2015 development agenda, both as a stand-alone goal and as a theme permeating all other sustainable development goals (SDGs). Indeed, it had sent a loud and clear message that governments must agree a goal with clear targets and measurable indicators. Parliamentarians were urged to attend the forthcoming Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, aptly entitled Rethinking sustainable development: The quest for a "transformational" global agenda in 2015; it promised to be an extraordinary event and to provide a unique opportunity for them to make their voices heard by those who would have the final say on the SDGs.

The IPU was furthermore set to achieve yet another milestone at the current Assembly, poised as it was to adopt a gender mainstreaming policy document through which it would lead by example and practise what it had preached over many years of tireless work to promote gender equality and women's participation in politics. It also looked forward to the adoption of proposed amendments to its Statutes and Rules with a view to enhancing its

overall efficiency and injecting new energy into its work through the welcome presence of the new Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU in its midst.

Notwithstanding such proud achievements, democracy was a work in progress and much remained to be done. Wishing participants fruitful deliberations in the interest of building a better future for all, he called on them to make the 129th Assembly a memorable event as they debated the pressing issues of the day and reformed their own way of working at the IPU.

Item 2 of the agenda

Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda

(A/129/2-Inf.1.rev.2)

The PRESIDENT invited the Secretary General to introduce the requests submitted for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda.

The SECRETARY GENERAL, referring to the requests set out in document A/129/2-Inf.1.rev.2, said that the items proposed by the delegations of Morocco and Palestine had now been combined, with consequent amendments to the wording. A request submitted by the delegation of Kenya had since been withdrawn on the understanding that a presidential statement would be issued during the Assembly in condemnation of the terrorist attack on Westgate Mall in Nairobi, which had been the subject of its proposed item. The proposal from Mexico on the universal ratification of the new Arms Trade Treaty had also been withdrawn.

The six requests now before the Assembly for a vote were therefore as follows:

- Addressing criminal acts of deliberate destruction of world cultural heritage in countries in a situation of armed conflict or fighting terrorism: The role of parliaments (Morocco and Palestine);
- Action by parliaments to safeguard the fragile democracy in Haiti (Haiti);
- Cyber warfare – A serious threat to peace and global security (Uruguay, with the support of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC));
- Enhancing the role of parliaments in maintaining international peace and security through support for a political settlement:
 - (1) by refusing any manner of aggression, or threat of aggression, violation of State sovereignty and interference in Syria's affairs that exceeds the framework of international legitimacy;
 - (2) by applying all international community resolutions on the fight against terrorism (Syrian Arab Republic);
- The security and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic: Facilitating assistance for the population and promoting the transition to democracy (France); and
- The role of parliaments in supervising the ban on the use and the destruction of chemical weapons (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden);

The PRESIDENT invited the delegations concerned to present their respective requests in accordance with Rule 12 of the Rules of the Assembly, at the same time recalling the provisions of Rules 11.2 (a) and (b), in particular the fact that only one emergency item could be placed on the agenda of the Assembly, subject to receiving a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

Mr. M.C. BIADILLAH (Morocco), speaking also on behalf of the Palestinian delegation, said that his delegation's initial proposal, covering the same issue as its request at the previous Assembly, had been combined with the Palestinian proposal insofar as they both concerned criminal acts of deliberate destruction. The aim of such acts of hatred was to erase the identity of the people targeted, undermine their dignity and demolish the symbols of their culture and religion, as had happened in a long list of countries including not only Palestine but also Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Eritrea and Iraq, to name but a few. Efforts to safeguard cultural property in times of conflict, including through codification, were age-old, dating back as they did to as far as 1863 and the Lieber Instructions signed by United States President Abraham Lincoln.

Mr. M. SHEETRIT (Israel) pointed out that the joint proposal did not comply with Rule 11.2(c) of the Rules of the Assembly, which provided that each of the original proposals must relate to the same subject. He could accept a joint proposal that retained the original wording of the Moroccan proposal but objected to the amended proposal; it was counterproductive and potentially damaging to the delicate Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Moreover, Palestinian President Abbas himself shared the Israeli view that the settlement issue was not an obstacle to those negotiations, thereby giving no reason for it to be raised in the present forum as a means of sabotage.

Mr. A. AL-AHMAD (Palestine) replied that his delegation had merged its proposal with the Moroccan proposal in that the latter addressed the same subject as the Moroccan request submitted at the 128th Assembly in Quito, which encompassed such issues as the Israeli excavations endangering al-Aqsa mosque, the third most religious site for over 1.4 billion Muslims and a religious and cultural symbol likewise for Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem. The comment about President Abbas was furthermore untrue; he continued to look upon Israeli settlement as an illegal activity, as indeed did the United States sponsor of the stalled peace talks.

Mr. S.D. DESRAS (Haiti) stated that the democratic gains achieved in Haiti were in jeopardy; elections due since 2011 had not been held, one third of Senate posts had been axed and parliament was under threat of dissolution. He therefore appealed for IPU support to avert that situation by all means, including through the issuance of a declaration condemning any government action aimed at dissolving a democratically elected parliament. Based on this understanding, he was ready to withdraw his proposal.

Mr. J.C. MAHÍA (Uruguay) said that the item proposed by his delegation addressed a topical matter of universal concern in view of the impact of cyber warfare on daily lives and the risks it posed to the economic and cultural fabric of society. Cyber attacks should be seen as a grave threat to global peace and security, rather than as an extension of military activities. The IPU must therefore be proactive in speaking out against such attacks, not forgetting that the world's infrastructure would soon be based on information platforms. Legal guarantees and certainty were needed to ensure that cyber warfare was appropriately criminalized and punished. Indeed, the development of legal instruments to combat cyber warfare was crucial to addressing the burgeoning problem of information-related crime. In the hands of criminal or terrorist groups, cyber weapons were a dangerous tool and their use must be subject to international condemnation.

Mr. K. MASHHADIEH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation's proposal had been prompted by the international consensus that had grown concerning the need for a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis and by the universal belief that his country was now host to international terrorism, with over 80 nationalities involved in fighting a war with no end in

sight. The violence and attacks perpetrated against the Syrian Arab Republic, without justification or international approval, posed a danger to the global peace and security so championed by the IPU. The interests of the Syrian people would not be served by acts of aggression, however. Parliamentary support for a peaceful solution was therefore vitally needed to add to that already being lent to the Syrian Arab Republic by its friends.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ (France) said that her delegation had decided to withdraw its request in solidarity with the Twelve Plus Group, which favoured the Nordic request. It nevertheless wished to draw attention to the worsening situation in the Central African Republic, where the insecurity, violence and destitution had caused internal displacement, refugee outflows, food insecurity and child malnutrition. Urgent action was thus imperative to countering the extremely grave security and humanitarian consequences for the entire population; the slide towards ethno-religious strife, which created an obstacle to lasting peace and the re-establishment of national unity; and the threat to regional stability, especially if the country were to fall into the hands of the foreign criminal and terrorist groups already on the ground. The crisis must not be forgotten by the international community. The recent decision of the Human Rights Council to appoint an independent expert to monitor the country's human rights situation was therefore welcome, as was the deployment of the African Union-led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, said that the request submitted by the Nordic countries stemmed from a desire to highlight the fact that chemical weapons continued to exist and be used, despite the signing of conventions and agreements to ban and destroy such weapons. While progress had been made in enforcing those instruments, unfortunate events such as those recently witnessed in the Syrian Arab Republic attested to the need for a stronger approach to the elimination of chemical weapons. The aim of the request was therefore to emphasize the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in promoting the acceleration of that goal; it was their job to work for a safer world and to protect civilian lives in particular from threats such as those posed by chemical weapons.

The PRESIDENT, noting the decisions of the delegations of France, Haiti, Kenya and Mexico to withdraw their requests, declared that the four remaining requests, submitted by the delegations of Morocco and Palestine, Uruguay with GRULAC support, the Syrian Arab Republic and the five Nordic countries, would be put to the vote.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in conducting the vote, with reference to Assembly Rules 11.1 and 11.2, reproduced in document A/129/2/Inf.1.rev.2, and the table showing the allocation of votes of participants, contained in document A/129/Inf.3.

The vote was taken by roll-call (see Annexes III A - D, pp. [129-132]) and, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, with 1,225 votes in favour, 42 against and 308 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegations of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden was approved and added to the agenda of the Assembly as item 6.

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that the geopolitical groups were invited to submit the names of up to two representatives who would take part in a drafting committee to be established for the purpose of preparing a draft resolution on the chosen emergency item.

The meeting rose at 2 p.m.

Final Assembly agenda

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- Item 1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 129th Assembly
- Item 2 Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
- Item 3 Panel discussions on the subject items chosen for debate during the 130th Assembly
- (a) Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of parliaments
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
 - (b) Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)
 - (c) The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
- Item 4 Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs
- Item 5 Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU
- Item 6 The role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and the ban on their use
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SITTING
OF TUESDAY, 8 OCTOBER
MORNING

The meeting was called to order at 9.15 a.m., with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair.

Item 6 of the agenda

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:
The role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons
and the ban on their use**

The PRESIDENT invited a representative of the co-sponsors of the emergency item to open the debate.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, expressed gratitude to those who had voted in favour of the emergency item put forward by the Nordic countries. Their choice of item had been motivated by the recent use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which was a reminder that those weapons were still being produced, stockpiled and employed to destroy lives, notwithstanding the existence of widely ratified international instruments prohibiting such activities. Useful guidance on approaches to the elimination of chemical weapons could be drawn from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with a view to building on the suggestions for parliamentary action set out in the draft resolution submitted by the Nordic countries, as annexed to document A/129/2-P.8. She looked forward to hearing the views of participants concerning issues to be included or excluded from the draft resolution, the ultimate goal being to rid the world of chemical weapons.

Ms. I. HEGGØ (Norway) said that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) had for 16 years been a key instrument in combating the spread of weapons of mass destruction, establishing an essential disarmament and non-proliferation norm and providing inspiration for other arms control agreements. The destruction of those weapons was, however, far from complete and would remain a significant task for years to come. Much attention was now focused on the Syrian Arab Republic, for obvious reasons, but it should be remembered that several other countries had yet to complete their obligations as mandated by the Convention. Possessor States were therefore strongly encouraged to make the utmost effort to meet their destruction targets as soon as possible.

It was also essential to continue working for universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention; the threat of chemical weapons was still very real, as demonstrated by recent use of poison gas in the Syrian arena. The recent adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), which foresaw the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons within a set time frame, was an important step. Notwithstanding that the primary responsibility for the implementation of that resolution lay with the Syrian Government, the international community must closely monitor the destruction of the country's chemical weapons and also stand ready to assist in that exercise. Currently engaged in making internal assessments for providing such assistance, the Norwegian Government would continue to be a staunch supporter of the Chemical Weapons Convention as an invaluable instrument in the common efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. She urged careful consideration of the draft resolution on the emergency item; it constituted an extremely timely call for prompt action by parliamentarians.

Mr. P.J. KURIEN (India) stated that India, an early signatory of and State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, had fulfilled its obligations thereunder, including, in advance of the agreed time line, the destruction of its chemical weapons, pursuant to a domestic law introduced to give effect to the Convention. Likewise pursuant to that law, it had established a body acting as a national focal point with OPCW and fellow States Parties on matters relating to the Convention. On that score, the Indian Parliament continued to exercise the necessary oversight for ensuring the effective implementation of India's international obligations. India similarly participated in activities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention), which it had also ratified.

The recent use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic pointed to the urgent need for international efforts to strengthen restraints on the use of weapons of mass destruction, including in particular to prevent access to such weapons by non-State actors and terrorists. The newly elaborated Russian-United States Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons was a welcome development, as were the recent steps by the Syrian Government to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The use of chemical weapons must be robustly condemned in all circumstances. The hope was that the current debate and ensuing draft resolution would galvanize political will for channelling efforts towards the noble goal of ridding the world of chemical and all other weapons of mass destruction, in addition to promoting signature and ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Parliaments must work collectively in pursuit of those objectives.

Mr. T.U S. MANN (Myanmar), outlining the process of democratization, peace-building, reconciliation and socio-economic development being actively pursued by both Houses of the Myanmar Parliament, expressed appreciation for the IPU's leading role in promoting democracy worldwide. The two Houses had benefited from IPU cooperation since the Parliament's reaffiliation to the IPU in 2012 and the present emergency debate and the IPU committees and panel discussions were extremely useful to enhancing understanding of the views of other parliaments on substantive issues. Myanmar's foreign policy was based on contributing actively to the maintenance of international peace and security. It consistently expressed its support for disarmament and its opposition to arms races and the illegal production and sale of all weapons. It was in the process of ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention and its Parliament would continue to work for universal disarmament.

Mr. M.V. SISULU (South Africa) stated that there was no justification for the use of chemical weapons, which constituted a threat to international peace and security. As a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, South Africa continued to support a comprehensive ban on chemical and indeed nuclear weapons. It joined in condemning the killing of innocent civilians by the indiscriminate use of chemical weapons, welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and was encouraged by the Syrian accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the first steps taken accordingly. The Syrian crisis would be resolved only through an inclusive Syrian-led political process based on the Geneva Communiqué endorsed in June 2012 by the Action Group on Syria. The IPU Assembly must reiterate its call for all parties to engage in constructive action for the achievement of stability and reconciliation in the interest of the Syrian people and the entire region. The Security Council must also use its powers to focus attention on the dire humanitarian situation and political crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, while regional stakeholders must challenge those seeking to undermine the process under way.

Parliaments, too, must raise awareness of the catastrophic consequences of the continuing bloodbath and use of chemical weapons in that country; monitor compliance with obligations under international conventions and agreements; and ensure that such instruments

as the Chemical Weapons Convention were incorporated into national legislation. His own Parliament had passed legislation for controlling weapons of mass destruction and received annual progress reports from the body established to pursue that objective. The opportunity was now ripe for those who had not yet signed the Chemical Weapons Convention to do so and for those guilty of stockpiling such harmful weapons to destroy them in order to save the world and its future.

Ms. ZHAO SHAOHUA (China) said that further strengthening of multilateral arms control, disarmament and the non-proliferation regime, including the Chemical Weapons Convention, was highly relevant to upholding global security. Chemical weapons disarmament had progressed remarkably during the 15 years of the Convention's life, but stockpiles and abandoned chemical weapons should be promptly dismantled and implementation measures required improvement, as did the ability to protect against chemical weapons. All parties to the Convention must take advantage of such opportunities as the review conferences to plan a balanced and effective implementation, drawing on past experiences, in order to meet the purposes and objectives of the Convention at an early date.

Having suffered chemical weapon attacks during World War II, China strongly opposed all use of such weapons, which should be unanimously condemned. Firmly committed as a founding party to its obligations under the Convention, it had put in place an appropriate legal framework and implementation mechanism, had the largest number of declared and verifiable facilities under Article VI, fulfilled its reporting requirements in a timely manner and had hosted over 300 OPCW inspection missions. It also actively collaborated with OPCW and the National People's Congress stood ready to work with all parliaments for full implementation of the Convention in the interest of a chemical weapons-free world. Its position was accordingly consistent and clear-cut on the Syrian chemical weapons issue, but it objected to military intervention in the country; a peaceful solution was the way forward. The Syrian Government's accession to the Convention was thus welcome, as was the Framework for the Elimination for Syrian Chemical Weapons, and China was willing to provide financial support and experts for the related work. Its hope was that all concerned parties would continue their close cooperation and fulfil their respective responsibilities in order to promote a satisfactory settlement of the issue.

Mr. R. NORMAN (New Zealand) commented that, in the wake of the events in the Syrian Arab Republic, his delegation's recent visit to battlefield graves in Belgium had served as yet a further reminder of the full horrors of chemical warfare. As borne out by those events, the vital destruction of chemical weapons was long overdue. Countries not yet having acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention must do so and those that had done so must eliminate any chemical weapons stockpiles they might still have. Parliaments were duty-bound to exercise their strength and ability to play a crucial role in the issue, a role aptly demonstrated by the United Kingdom Parliament in voting against military involvement in the Syrian conflict. Weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons were at least equally as destructive as chemical weapons, however, and their stockpiles must also be destroyed in the quest for a world free of all such weapons in the interest of humanity and future generations. The horrors of World War I and the much more recent chemical attack on the Syrian people must never again be witnessed.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom), welcoming the current debate, joined in condemning the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, which had been confirmed by the valuable and authoritative work of United Nations inspection teams. The United Kingdom had ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, which now enjoyed almost universal support. Parliaments must play a vital role in ensuring that all signatory States adhered to their commitments under the Convention and that appropriate national mechanisms were established to monitor full and effective compliance. They must also reflect

on recent Syrian developments with a view to considering opportunities for further action in their own countries to address the scourge of chemical weapons.

Supporting as it did the destruction of all remaining chemical weapons stocks, the United Kingdom worked with all relevant partners to encourage full implementation of the Convention by all countries. The recent vote of its Parliament against hasty involvement in military action in the Syrian Arab Republic should not be construed as diminishing its deep-seated concerns over the recent use of chemical weapons in that country, nor indeed as complacency concerning such use in general. The vote instead indicated the majority support for further international efforts to find alternative ways of addressing a serious threat to global peace and security, including through appropriate action under the Convention. On that score, the first destruction of Syrian chemical weapons was a welcome outcome, with full credit due to all parties who had worked for its achievement. Encouraging as the Syrian accession to the Convention was however, the plight of the Syrian people remained profoundly troubling. All parties must work for a peaceful solution to the conflict in order to end the suffering of innocent civilians and the grave security and humanitarian repercussions in neighbouring countries.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) noted that the draft resolution submitted by the Nordic countries provided a good basis for negotiation, to which her delegation would provide input through the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC). Cuba had always advocated general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, posing as they did such a grave threat to international peace and security. As a committed party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, it complied strictly with its provisions, which had been incorporated into the national legislation. It thus condemned the use of chemical and other weapons of mass destruction, the speedy elimination of which must remain a priority goal, with parliamentarians playing an essential role, in order not to jeopardize the credibility and integrity of the existing international regime. Regrettably, not all States Parties to the Convention had yet fulfilled their commitments relating to chemical weapons destruction. It was furthermore paradoxical that the conduct of some States should be demonized while others continued to develop chemical arsenals and refused to join the Convention. Furthermore, a party to the Convention, in blatant violation of the provisions thereof, was responsible for supplying arms and raw materials to certain geopolitical allies. Parliamentarians were under a primary obligation to report violations of that nature. In tackling an issue of such importance, it was paramount to set aside all politicization and double standards in order to achieve a world free of all weapons of mass destruction. The Cuban Parliament reiterated its commitment to that noble goal.

Mr. M. ALJEFRI (Saudi Arabia), commending the majority vote in favour of the present emergency item, drew attention to that fact that his country's policy positions were rooted in the teachings of Islam, which safeguarded the rights and dignity of all human beings, regardless of religion or sex. Parliamentarians clearly sensed their important role and the hopes pinned on them in the face of such a serious matter as the use of chemical weapons. Their responsible and cooperative approach to that matter was therefore heartening, especially given the enormous challenges to be overcome at the present critical juncture. His country continually expressed its support for prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and for the destruction of those weapons. Their use was intolerable under any circumstances; it ran counter to all ethical and legal standards embraced by the international community and was to be rejected and condemned in the strongest terms. Yet beyond the destruction of those weapons there must also be accountability, not forgetting that their recent use had claimed over 1,000 Syrian lives. Such use must therefore be prosecuted as a criminal offence and the draft resolution must emphasize that fact.

Ms. R.G.S. WIJEWICKRAMA (Sri Lanka) said that, as a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, her country abhorred the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and called for their full destruction and global elimination. She therefore expressed appreciation to the Nordic countries for their proposal of the emergency item, which was a welcome inclusion in the Assembly's agenda.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) related that Sudan possessed no chemical weapons and had no intention of possessing them, contradictory as they were to the values of Islam, which prohibited killing and genocide. Sudan consistently advocated the prohibition and destruction of such weapons and indeed all weapons of mass destruction in the interest of a world free of threats to human existence. States engaged in manufacturing chemical weapons or in stockpiling raw materials for that purpose must be punished. Furthermore, no Muslim State or individual involved in the preparation or use of chemical weapons could claim to be acting in the name of their religion; on the contrary, they were damaging that name. A distinction must therefore be drawn between unscrupulous acts and religious or national affiliations with principles and values that some chose to flout. The Sudanese Parliament endorsed all international and regional instruments prohibiting chemical weapons and urging their destruction. The same must apply to all weapons of mass destruction, which must also form no part of any army's arsenal.

Mr. R. CABEZAS (Latin American Parliament) remarked that his country was opposed to war and consequently favoured full disarmament. Having ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention, it condemned the use of chemical weapons and called for their elimination worldwide. It had no domestic legislation on nuclear or chemical weapons for the simple reason that it possessed neither. Moreover, it was directed by its Constitution to work for national and regional peace. It was opposed to a military attack against the Syrian Arab Republic as an action that would heap yet more human suffering, death and destruction on the Syrian people. It called instead for a peaceful negotiated settlement to the conflict, endorsing the role played by China and the Russian Federation, as well as by the United Kingdom Parliament, in staving off such aggression. Double standards concerning the destruction of chemical weapons were naturally to be shunned, but the long-term answer was to ban the proliferation of such weapons, which were the main threat to human survival on earth. Legislation should also be introduced to decrease military spending on arms, which was of such gigantic proportions that one quarter of the amount would suffice to resolve the problem of world hunger. Inter-regional military aggression should also be prohibited. He called on fellow Latin Americans, who lived in an untroubled nuclear-free region, to work for peaceful solutions, the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction and the controlled production of the military weapons that destroyed human lives.

Ms. F. DAĞCI CIĞLIK (Turkey) opined that the recent chemical attack carried out in Damascus by the Syrian regime was unacceptable and contrary to universal values. The agreed Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and subsequent Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) were welcome developments, although caution must be exercised, given the proclivity of the regime to exploit such initiatives in a bid to gain time. In that light, the reference in the resolution to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations was encouraging. The process under way must not, however, be perceived as a final solution to the conflict; the massacres committed by the regime without the use of chemical weapons must also be prevented and a political settlement remained the primary objective. The conflict had produced the current century's worst humanitarian crisis, which must be addressed within Syrian borders. Turkey was hosting some 600,000 Syrian refugees at a cost of almost US\$ 2 billion and its citizens were terrorized by the ongoing clashes in the border region. It therefore had an inherent right to take the necessary measures to address that problem.

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), commenting on the recent shocking reminder of the major risk posed to humanity by chemical weapons, said that the horrifying attack in the Syrian Arab Republic had focused international attention on the fact that destructive chemical weapons were still being used, notwithstanding the near universal support for the Chemical Weapons Convention. It was vital for parliamentarians to act insofar as the signature of such instruments had clearly proved inadequate to guarantee compliance with their provisions. Past examples of the devastating impact of chemical weapons included the mustard-gas attacks on the Kurdish village of Halabja in 1988 and the sarin attacks perpetrated by a Japanese doomsday cult in 1994 and 1995. The potential now existed, however, for the use of even more deadly modern chemical agents in war and violent conflicts, not only by States but also by non-State actors. That fact alone should provide the imperative for international efforts to uphold the ban on chemical weapons and work towards their full elimination at the global level.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) said that, as a responsible global actor, Mexico supported Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), which established a roadmap for the elimination of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Mexico condemned the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances in that it posed a threat to international security and peace. Indeed, the use of chemical weapons was a violation of international law and a war crime. Mexico also endorsed the Russian-United States Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons and advocated follow-up and monitoring of the destruction of all chemical arsenals. It acknowledged in addition the willingness of the Syrian Government to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine), voicing his country's opposition to the production and use of chemical weapons, recalled that such weapons had been unleashed not only in World War II and Viet Nam but also in Gaza, in 2009, with Israel's deployment of white phosphorus. The issue of chemical weapons must be tackled without double standards and with equal robustness in all parts of the world. Some countries, including Israel, were known to have stockpiles of chemical and nuclear weapons. A forthright and transparent approach must be adopted when it came to dealing with such weapons, which were patently dangerous and a cause of natural and other disasters.

Mr. S. REYES (El Salvador) said that El Salvador fully rejected the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and indeed any weapon of mass destruction. Only if all States signed and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention would the world become a safer place, not forgetting that some 40,000 tonnes of chemical weapons were currently stockpiled across the globe, according to OPCW statistics. Rather than the rush to blame prompted by the chemical weapons drama that had unfolded in the Syrian Arab Republic, the episode should be used to underline the need for wholesale rejection of chemical weapons. It should certainly not serve as a pretext for justifying intervention in a sovereign country or indiscriminate attacks against the Syrian people, so many of whom had already been displaced or killed. It was saddening that foreign countries should not only react in that vein but also see fit to provide funding, logistical support and intelligence to groups fighting a government, including terrorist groups whom those countries themselves claimed to be fighting. Also unacceptable were the double standards at play whereby certain countries in the region in possession of weapons of mass destruction, among them nuclear weapons, were under no pressure to destroy their arsenals. El Salvador favoured a negotiated peaceful settlement in the Syrian Arab Republic and therefore welcomed the Russian and United States efforts in pursuit of impending talks in Geneva. Parliaments must support those efforts and the IPU must also take a clear stand against non-intervention in the country, in addition to condemning all use of weapons of mass destruction and rejecting all double standards and attempts to exploit the Syrian humanitarian crisis with ulterior motives.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia) observed that parliamentarians indeed had a role to play in supervising the ban on the use and destruction of chemical weapons. In common with the majority of developing countries, Zambia did not have the capacity to produce, stockpile or oversee the destruction of chemical weapons but strongly appealed to countries possessing that capacity to consider the evil produced by the use of such weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, namely loss of innocent lives and destruction of property. It vigorously condemned the use of those weapons, which posed a threat to international peace and security. Peace-loving countries must rise to the challenge of eliminating all such weapons.

Mr. H. NAPOLEÃO (Brazil), expressing his country's support for the Chemical Weapons Convention, Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) and the emergency action being undertaken in that connection, said that Brazil neither produced, stockpiled nor possessed chemical weapons. It did, however, produce nuclear energy but under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and for peaceful use only in nuclear-powered submarines. In short, it was a peaceful and peace-promoting nation, as manifested in its enjoyment of friendly relations with Latin American countries, not least the 10 neighbours with which it shared borders. Its Parliament was resolved to contribute to the fight against chemical weapons.

Mr. K. DOUMBIA (Mali) noted that the unanimous adoption of the item was an indication of the international outrage over the use of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction. His country would pursue all avenues for the elimination of such weapons worldwide. The Syrian war was a humanitarian drama that could be resolved only through political negotiation between the combatants, a process in which parliaments must purposefully engage. The United Kingdom Parliament was to be commended on its historic vote to prevent the intervention of foreign troops in the Syrian Arab Republic. As legislators, the role of parliaments in supervising the ban on the use and destruction of chemical weapons was fundamental.

Mr. D. MARK (Nigeria) restated his country's belief in the IPU as a veritable platform for international collaboration and networking to ensure a more stable and peaceful chemical weapons-free world. As a signatory to the relevant international instruments, it saw the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction as an achievable goal, one in which parliaments had a strong role to play through encouraging their governments to sign and ratify such instruments, which must then be incorporated into domestic law, and through ensuring that signatories thereafter lived up to their commitments. States without chemical weapons must not build up arsenals and States with chemical weapons must abandon all rhetoric and commence disarmament. Parliaments could also contribute to the attainment of a chemical weapons-free world through the budgetary and appropriation processes. Indeed, a denial of funding to chemical weapons programmes would not only make the world safer but also free up resources for developmental priorities. The opportunity of the current age of development, global peace and cooperation should be seized to create a happier and more secure global village through international collaboration on the issue. While possibly useful during the Cold War era, the spectre of chemical weapons with its attendant reality of mutually assured destruction was now redundant. As members of a responsible nation, Nigerian parliamentarians looked forward to working with their fellow colleagues to pursue the goal of a safer world free of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. J. MUTURI (Kenya), speaking from the perspective of his country as a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention and a victim of terrorist attacks, said that the consequences were too loathsome to contemplate should chemical weapons ever fall into the hands of barbaric agents of terror. In the wake of the catalogue of fatalities and injuries caused to innocent and defenceless citizens in the most recent attack on Nairobi's Westgate Mall in

September 2013, the many messages of condolence from parliaments and parliamentarians, including the IPU President, had been gratefully received. As the authorities took stock of that heinous crime, the issuance of warnings against travel to Kenya was unhelpful and also inhibited international cooperation. Terrorism was not a national problem but an international affair requiring concerted global action, especially in the event of attacks directed against countries. Kenya would continue to denounce the production and use of chemical weapons on account of their devastating and fatal consequences and the sufferings visited on humanity as a result of their use by States or non-State actors. Nor would the Kenyan Parliament relent in its condemnation of the production and use of chemical weapons and its pursuit of appropriate legislative action in the effort to eradicate those weapons. It pledged to play an active role in encouraging that goal.

Ms. I.M. MONTENEGRO (Nicaragua) remarked that, having experienced foreign intervention and its human and economic consequences, her country was well aware of the meaning of war and thus welcomed the current debate, which equally applied to biological and other types of warfare. The work of parliamentarians to expand democracy must also comprise efforts to ensure respect for international law. In addition to abiding by that law, Nicaragua upheld the principle of conflict resolution through negotiation and dialogue, assisted as necessary by international organizations. It thus welcomed the Russian initiative for ending the Syrian conflict, which had won the support of the international community, including countries holding a Security Council veto. In working for Syrian peace, however, it was crucial to maintain vigilance concerning the use of double standards and attempts to ride roughshod over human rights and national sovereignty. As a peace-loving country, Nicaragua supported actions designed to bring lasting peace to the Syrian and other conflicts in the Middle East, not forgetting the cause of the Palestinian people.

Mr. C.J. BOUSSINOT NUILA (Guatemala) said that countries such as Guatemala, with its experience of armed conflict, appreciated the meaning of life in a country at peace. Guatemala thus fully condemned and opposed the use of any type of chemical weapons and also welcomed agreements designed to promote the early elimination of chemical weapons, in keeping with the principles articulated in the Quito Communiqué adopted at the 128th Assembly in Quito. Governments must call and work for the goal of a peaceful weapons-free world, which was his country's ideal.

The delegate from OMAN reported that, as part of its firm commitment to respect international law, Oman complied fully with its obligations under the numerous international and indeed regional instruments it had signed relating to chemical, nuclear and bacteriological weapons, which included the Chemical Weapons Convention, the NPT and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Reiterating Omani support for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region, she called on all countries in the region to become parties to the international instruments aimed at preventing the proliferation of such weapons.

Mr. A. DJELLOUT (Algeria) said that his country had always advocated the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction and condemned all use of chemical weapons. The Chemical Weapons Convention must be fully respected; there was no room for any double-standard policies. The Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons agreed between the Russian Federation and the United States was a welcome initiative and the readiness of the Syrian Government to cooperate fully with the United Nations was equally welcome. Algeria supported a non-military diplomatic solution to the Syrian issue.

Mr. K. MASHHADIEH (Syrian Arab Republic) thanked participants for their support in favour of a peaceful solution in his country, in particular those who had applauded the Syrian Government's accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention and its agreement to place its

chemical weapons under international control. The United Kingdom Parliament was also to be commended for its vote against a military attack on the country. The Syrian Government had in fact manifested a long-standing desire to eliminate weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region, a notion proposed at the United Nations as far back as 2003, not forgetting that Israel possessed nuclear and chemical weapons and had openly used the latter in Gaza without censure. The controversy over the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic neglected the fact that the Government had from the outset called for an investigation into who was responsible. A great deal of evidence had been handed to the United Nations showing that terrorist organizations were to blame, which raised the disquieting question of proliferation. The Syrian Government had repeatedly asserted that it would never use chemical weapons, which it possessed solely as a deterrent to the Israeli nuclear threat. It was utterly opposed to any arms race in the region.

Mr. A. MISIEKABA (Suriname), expressing condemnation of the recent use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, called for a peaceful solution to the humanitarian crisis in that country through diplomacy and dialogue. Suriname currently held the Presidency of the Union of South American Nations, which was opposed to the use of aggression in the Syrian Arab Republic and appealed to the Syrian Government to work towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Ms. N.I. ANWAR (Malaysia) observed that the continuing existence of nuclear and chemical weapons posed a threat to humanity and that their use brought catastrophic humanitarian consequences of immensely troubling proportions. Indeed, all Malaysians were deeply horrified by the ongoing crisis and death toll following the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Malaysia continued to support the pursuit of a nuclear and chemical weapons-free world, which was dependent on fulfilment of the basic elements embodied in the three NPT pillars, namely: disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The total, irreversible and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons was the only adequate response to their humanitarian threat. Bearing in mind the slow progress in the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons, the humanitarian approach was insufficient in itself to achieve that goal but would surely contribute towards broadening the international discourse on nuclear disarmament. While discussions at the International Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, held in Oslo in March 2013, had produced a welcome outcome, a particularly worrying key point had been highlighted, namely that no State or international body was likely to have the capacities for adequately addressing any immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation and providing sufficient assistance to those affected. Equally disconcerting was the scepticism that emerged concerning the ability to achieve those capacities.

The PRESIDENT thanked all the participants for their contributions and announced that the drafting committee convened to consider in the light of those contributions the draft resolution on the item would comprise delegates from Burkina Faso and Zambia for the African Group; Saudi Arabia and Morocco for the Arab Group; the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia for the Asia-Pacific Group; Belarus for the Eurasia Group; Mexico and Uruguay for GRULAC; and Finland, Germany and Sweden for the Twelve Plus Group.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.

IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS**Sitting of Monday, 7 October**
(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.25 a.m. with Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso), President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda
(UNC/2013/A.1)

The PRESIDENT asked whether the agenda could be adopted.

It was so decided.

Session 1: Interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams

The PRESIDENT, introducing the item, reminded participants that it had been decided by the Committee on UN Affairs that field missions should take place to investigate how national parliaments organized their work with UN agencies in the field. Previous consultations on the issue had shown that only 10 per cent of national parliaments had systematic and regular contact with UN representatives in the field and that national parliaments were not always consulted by their governments on the follow-up and implementation of commitments made at the United Nations. Field missions had been carried out in seven countries and had helped to raise awareness within the United Nations and national parliaments on the need for cooperation. Those missions had made it possible to draw a number of conclusions regarding relations between UN agencies and national parliaments, namely that parliaments could play a significant role in interventions and activities in the field, but that they should have a clear idea of the nature of their relationship with the United Nations. Furthermore, mechanisms needed to be established to govern that relationship and maximize its potential. The activity of parliamentary committees had been found to be of particular importance, especially with regard to follow-up of negotiations and monitoring of government implementation of UN commitments. The field teams had also met with UN representatives to advocate more involvement of parliaments in their activities as the UN agencies appeared to involve civil society organizations in their work to a greater degree than they did parliaments. It was considered that parliamentary monitoring of UN activities needed to be enhanced. The field teams had also met with representatives of other organizations and bodies involved in development activities as a result of bilateral and regional cooperation agreements.

Mr. M. OO (Myanmar) said that government cooperation with UN teams active in his country had recently been extended to include parliamentary input. The UN teams had a variety of mandates covering many different areas, particularly development and emergency relief, while the main priority of the government and parliament was the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He expressed appreciation for the work of the UN teams and encouraged them to promote greater engagement with the parliament.

Mr. I. LIDDELL-GRAINER (United Kingdom) explained that in his country there was limited engagement between the United Nations and Parliament, as there was no UN office in the United Kingdom and therefore opportunities for parliamentarians to meet with UN representatives were limited. In addition, the United Kingdom had its own direct funding mechanism, the Department for International Development (DfID), and Parliament was not always fully aware of UN activities. A high proportion of projects supported by DfID were implemented through charities, and members of parliament were often unaware that the

United Nations played a coordinating role for many of those projects. The IPU should encourage parliamentarians and the United Nations to collaborate more closely on issues.

Mr. A. NIYAMAVEJA (Thailand) called for UN country teams to develop a more structured and integrated way of working with national parliaments, for example by involving those bodies in consultations on national development strategies and development aid effectiveness. Parliamentarians were able to play an important role in ensuring that national laws, policies and programmes reflected the principles and obligations of international agreements and in implementing the work of the United Nations. Enhancing cooperation between UN country teams and national parliaments would be vital in that regard.

Mr. B.P. BAISHYA (India) observed that the role of parliaments had increased in recent years and now had a global dimension. It was therefore vital to have greater coordination between the United Nations and national parliaments. The findings of the field visits showed that parliamentarians had better contact with society and were best placed to understand the needs of citizens; as a result they could play an important role in the conception and implementation of development programmes to help them yield better results. However, it should be noted that although there was a need for increased interaction between the United Nations and parliaments, the primary relationship of that organization should be with the government of the relevant country. Parliamentary committees would be an excellent mechanism to monitor countries' actions regarding international and UN-related commitments.

The delegate from the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES suggested that the cultural differences and similarities of regional groups should be taken into consideration in all international cooperation. That should not require complete integration into the international systems; it was important to take into account different principles and values in order to find the best responses to challenges.

Mr. I. KANKE (Japan), expressing appreciation for the strong support Japan had received from countries and the United Nations following the earthquake in 2011, drew attention to the importance of activities carried out by UN country teams in the wake of that and other disasters, particularly with regard to disseminating accurate information.

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda) explained that her country had a formal mechanism in place for governing interactions with the United Nations. However, the United Nations often had pre-determined priorities which sometimes differed from national priorities. It was important that the United Nations was flexible so as to ensure that the priorities of the country in question were taken into account and incorporated into its work. Moreover, the parliamentary system of Uganda included committees on a number of different issues; although the United Nations often wished to engage with parliaments on the ratification of international commitments, members of parliament were not included in the pre-negotiation stage. UN country offices should therefore consult with parliaments during pre-negotiations to enable greater understanding of the background and context of international commitments.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) said that parliaments should play a greater role in discussions on UN-related issues, through committees on UN affairs. The IPU should encourage its Members to establish such committees in order to maintain oversight of government policies regarding, and relations with, the United Nations. It was important that governments were accountable to their parliaments in that area.

Mr. G. SCHNEEMAN (South Africa) observed that given the size and nature of the United Nations and its agencies, it was important that mechanisms were put in place to formalize interactions between parliaments and UN country teams. Therefore, UN country

teams should submit yearly reports on activities carried out and plans for the next year to the parliament of the country in question. Two-way discussions were vital and parliaments and UN country teams should work together on issues rather than in isolation of each other.

Mr. T. YAHYA (Indonesia) said that there was very limited interaction in his country between parliament and the United Nations. He hoped that in future, Indonesia would have a similar mechanism to that of Uganda for governing engagement with the United Nations. The IPU should concentrate its efforts on encouraging the United Nations to be actively engaged with national parliaments, for example through the establishment of a liaison office to facilitate collaboration between those two bodies.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada) noted that the IPU was the only international organization that enabled the views of opposition parties to be heard; in discussions with the United Nations, the views of opposition parties and parliamentary committees were often overlooked.

Ms. J. LAY (Kenya) reported that although her country hosted a number of UN agencies, there was limited interaction between parliament and those agencies; UN agencies tended to work closely with governments and civil society. However, she expressed appreciation for the leadership training received by women parliamentary candidates in the run-up to the most recent elections; such initiatives should continue and be increased in future. Kenya had a parliamentary committee on national security and foreign relations which, in its investigations into the recent terrorist attack on the Westgate Mall, had recommended the closure of the Daadab refugee camps as they were being used as a training ground for militant groups. Increased collaboration between that committee and the relevant UN agencies would be vital to enable further consultations on the issue.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS (Mexico) said that the UN offices in her country did not regularly consult with the national and regional parliaments; work usually took place in consultation with the government. As a result, UN country offices should be encouraged to develop a systematic approach to work with parliaments, which should include the provision of information on resolutions adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and best practices for the main issues on the national legislative agenda. At the suggestion of the Committee on International Organizations of the Mexican Senate, parliamentarians had formed part of the Mexican delegation to the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which had helped Congress understand the importance of the treaty and its ratification. Lastly, she encouraged other Members to establish committees on UN affairs as part of their own parliamentary framework.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN, (Sudan) stated that the United Nations tended to collaborate more with governments and civil society than with parliaments and the country offices lacked clear directives on how to manage their dealings with parliaments. Moreover, UN agencies and offices usually had their own priorities, which did not necessarily take into account individual country priorities. Parliaments had an important role to play in overseeing the work of the United Nations in their countries and parliamentarians could participate actively in peacekeeping and reconciliation processes, a role often overlooked by the United Nations. The IPU should therefore adopt a recommendation encouraging the UN country offices to engage more with parliaments.

Ms. N. ALADWAN (Saudi Arabia) proposed that the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs should become a Standing Committee to enable it to identify clear mechanisms to govern relations with the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Such a mechanism could also be applied to relations with other organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

Mr. O. SOININVAARA (Finland) expressed satisfaction with the relationship his country's parliament had with the United Nations. Norway had a parliamentary sub-committee on foreign affairs, which was always consulted by the relevant Minister prior to attending high-level UN meetings. The Minister in question would then report back to that sub-committee on the results of the UN deliberations. However, he suggested that parliamentarians could hold more discussions on UN-related affairs.

Mr. E. QUENUM (Benin) said that although the United Nations had been viewed as a political partner in his country, it had not taken on board the views of parliamentarians, instead following the line of the government, which did not necessarily serve the best interests of the people. That had led to the United Nations losing credibility among national development partners and members of parliament. He hoped that the United Nations would work in a more transparent manner and improve collaboration with parliaments; the IPU should play an advocacy role in that regard. In addition, parliamentarians should actively monitor UN activities in their country.

Mr. F. AL-SHAYEE (Kuwait) expressed support for stronger ties between parliaments and the United Nations, which would enable the assistance provided by UN agencies to reach those in need, particularly in post-conflict situations. As such, the IPU and parliaments should be able to cooperate with UN agencies in development efforts. Kuwait had recently called for a donor conference to support humanitarian relief in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. R. SILUVANGI LUMBA (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that in his country, there was interaction between the UN country office and parliament. The United Nations played an important role in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly with regard to stabilization. Recently, the Speaker of Parliament had organized consultations with all sectors of society in order to facilitate improving internal cohesion. However, more regular interactions between the UN country office and parliament were required in order to improve activities and avoid misunderstandings.

The delegate from NIGER observed that as representatives of the people, parliamentarians were well-placed to take action in areas such as reconciliation and mediation and to know what was required in their constituencies. The United Nations should take that into account when designing programmes and activities. He recalled that one of the objectives of UN Women was to encourage women to participate in the political sphere.

Ms. L. AL GAUD (Bahrain), welcoming the comments made by the previous speakers, said that some UN offices had their own priorities and agendas that did not necessarily match those of the country in which they were operating. That sometimes resulted in interference in the political affairs of a country. Such actions were unacceptable and any interactions with the political system of a country should be carried out in a clear and transparent manner. Moreover, there was no clear framework for the organization and function of country offices at the international level.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) suggested that it would be useful to study successful methods of collaboration currently used by Member Parliaments, such as the one reported by the delegate from FINLAND. It was important that parliaments received regular reports on UN activities in order to facilitate parliamentary discussions on relevant issues; such reports were particularly important for countries that hosted UN offices.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) said that international affairs were having an increasingly significant impact on the lives of all citizens, meaning that their views should be taken into account. The main role of parliaments was to represent the views of their constituents and it was important that the government activity at the international level was

monitored by parliament. However, the United Nations was an intergovernmental organization, meaning that only governments could represent their countries at that level. Complaints were often made regarding the ineffectiveness of the United Nations owing to the difficulty of reaching agreements between such a large number of States and that process should not be complicated further by involving parliaments. Instead, there should be better dialogue between governments and their parliaments on international issues. The IPU should investigate how Member Parliaments were involved in government decisions regarding UN activities and share the best practices with its Members. It could suggest ways to ensure parliamentary input on the issue, such as through the establishment of parliamentary Sub-Committees on UN Affairs or, as suggested by the delegate from SOUTH AFRICA, of a requirement for UN country offices to submit yearly reports to parliaments on their activities in their country.

Ms. F. DIENDÉRE DIALLO (Burkina Faso) said that her country enjoyed close collaboration with the UN system and requested clarification from the UNDP Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso regarding the funding situation for different programmes in her country. Some programmes managed their own budgets, but others had set budgets and she wished to know the reason why.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) suggested that the IPU should produce a document on the issues raised to enable parliaments to make informed choices about their engagement with UN agencies, particularly with regard to medium- and long-term issues.

Mr. P. KARORERO, UNDP Resident Representative, Burkina Faso, said that in his experience, when heads of UN agencies visited individual countries, they made an effort to also hold a meeting with the national parliament. In Burkina Faso, there was good system of cooperation in place between the UN agencies and the national parliament; the agencies were engaged in a range of activities and it was important to ensure that their work was coordinated. Framework plans for development assistance were developed taking into account the views and priorities of the government of the country involved. In Burkina Faso, the national parliament was invited to participate in the drafting of annual implementation reports on UN programmes and there was a specific programme in place aimed at bolstering parliamentary capacity. The UN agencies in Burkina Faso saw parliamentarians as important allies in the implementation of different programmes and there were a number of parliamentary committees that consulted with the UN agencies on specific issues. An annual meeting was also held to report on cooperation between the UN agencies, and the government on future plans. He explained that the United Nations always endeavoured to ensure that national parliaments were able to participate in negotiations on international treaties. However, national parliaments were not always fully aware of all activities within the UN system and regular briefings would be helpful. In relation to the specific question from the delegate from BURKINA FASO regarding the allocation of resources, he explained that some programmes were set up under the auspices of the 10-year strategic plan, the budget for which had been developed and implemented by parliament. Other programmes were established by different ministries, which had to contact the implementing agency so that resources could be made available.

Session 2: Follow-up of the Fourth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV)

The PRESIDENT welcomed the delegates and introduced the panellists: Mr. G.C. Acharya, UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS); Ms. A. Makinda, Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania; Mr. P. Karorero, UNDP Resident Representative in Burkina Faso; and Ambassador J.-M. Ehouzou, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Presentation

Mr. G.C. ACHARYA, Panellist, said that his Office enjoyed close collaboration with the IPU, and had engaged with parliaments on the preparation of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV). The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) was an ambitious programme based on strong national leadership and ownership, global solidarity and mutual accountability. Parliaments had a fundamental role to play in monitoring and implementing the IPoA, particularly through the design of national development strategies that responded to the needs of all citizens and the strengthening of good governance. However, different strategies would be needed for different countries. His Office was working with UNDP to provide specific instructions to UNDP country offices with a view to ensuring that there was a strong implementation mechanism at the national level that included parliaments. It would also be important to develop a mechanism to ensure that timely feedback was received by the relevant stakeholders. The current meeting was an important opportunity to raise awareness about the situation in individual countries and to share experiences. Further occasions should be sought as they would be crucial to strengthening parliamentary involvement in the mid-term review process of the IPoA, scheduled for 2015. A recent interim review of the IPoA, undertaken in collaboration with UNDP and the IPU, had identified areas where more action was needed, such as greater collaboration between UN agencies and other stakeholders and more focused interaction at the national level between the executive and legislative branches of government. Discussions with members of parliament from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Samoa and Sierra Leone had shown that although many of the priority areas of the IPoA were central to the work of parliaments, continued effort was needed to mainstream the IPoA in parliamentary work in both LDCs and donor countries. It was important to have renewed and strengthened collaboration between developed countries and the LDCs and development partners needed to fulfil their relevant commitments.

The post-2015 development agenda, which was being debated by the international community, should incorporate the priority areas of the IPoA, but there was growing recognition of the need to develop a set of goals that was adaptable to different national priorities, within the overarching goals of eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. The post-2015 development agenda would be larger than the current agenda, meaning that partnerships and implementation would need to be greater and more effective than before so as to ensure that promises at the international level were fully implemented at the national level. Good governance, transparency and the rule of law would be a fundamental part of the post-2015 development agenda, together with capacity-building for data collection and monitoring, all of which were areas where parliamentarians could play a significant part. Parliaments were best-placed to translate international agreements into actionable policies at the national level, thereby changing people's lives and contributing to global peace, security and solidarity.

Ms. A. MAKINDA, Panellist, observed that parliaments had a key role to play in ensuring efficiency, transparency and accountability in the design, implementation and review of policies and programmes. Parliaments were also responsible for the ratification of international instruments, incorporating them into national strategies and the allocation of resources to implement those instruments. Her country had implemented a number of development programmes and plans aimed at improving the well-being of the people and reducing abject poverty. Those programmes covered many of the priority areas of the IPoA. Each government department was required to formulate annual action plans on the development programmes and the Constitution gave parliament the power to discuss and pass any development plan, meaning that the government was therefore obliged to request parliamentary input at the planning and design stage. A number of mechanisms had been adopted to mainstream international commitments, including a system of parliamentary committees in which different issues were placed under the purview of relevant committees. For example, poverty eradication fell under the remit of the Committee on Economics, Development and Trade. The committees carried out in-depth analyses of the relevant plans and then advised the parliament as a whole. In addition, there was a watchdog committee to ensure value for money in the implementation of projects and to ensure that funds appropriated by parliament were only used for purposes authorized by parliament. A budget committee assisted in the formation and monitoring of the government's budget. It was important to note that many parliaments lacked the capacity, resources and information needed to implement international commitments and programmes, and some were unaware of the existence of such programmes. Therefore, budgets should be increased to enable training and enable committees to visit projects to ascertain their effectiveness in the field. In her country, parliament was working on that issue and a project had recently been launched in collaboration with UNDP to support and strengthen the legislative capacity of parliament.

Mr. P. KARORERO, Panellist, explained that in Burkina Faso, UNDP had a working group that collaborated with parliament on the implementation of the IPoA. It was vital that governments and parliaments were provided with the necessary information to enable them to contribute to the implementation of the IPoA. The United Nations and the Parliament of Burkina Faso had expressed their commitment to ensure follow-up of implementation, but the large number of interventions made that difficult. In Burkina Faso, the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development 2011–2015 was as closely linked as possible to the IPoA, particularly in areas such as production capacity, food security, development of human capital and housing. Instead of developing a new system to monitor implementation of the IPoA, countries should capitalize on existing mechanisms related to national development plans; parliament had an important role to play. It would also be vital to identify any gaps in implementation of IPoA. Regional collaboration and meetings offered opportunities for follow-up activities. In Burkina Faso, there was no focal point for the IPoA. Such an idea merited consideration and the United Nations could provide assistance on the issue.

Debate

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) asked what actions the United Nations were undertaking to raise awareness of the IPoA in LDC parliaments and what practical steps were being taken to ensure effective implementation of the IPoA.

Mr. I. LIDDELL-GRAINER (United Kingdom) observed that although the IPoA represented a positive step forward, a lot remained to be done. He enquired whether the deadline was considered to be achievable, and if not, how much additional time would be needed to reach the goals of the IPoA.

The delegate from MALI said that the information document showed that there was limited involvement by parliaments in the implementation of the IPoA, mainly as a result of a lack of assistance. Was there anything the United Nations could do to ensure greater assistance to parliamentarians in order to enable them to carry out monitoring activities?

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh) observed that many of the elements of the IPoA were cross-cutting in nature, meaning that there was no single focal point with whom parliaments could interact and he wished to know what the United Nations could do to address that issue. In addition, he requested further information on any indicators that existed for the IPoA, similar to those for the MDGs, and asked whether the United Nations would be able to provide assistance to parliaments in order to increase their capacity to carry out qualitative assessments of expenditure.

Mr. G.C. ACHARYA, Panellist, explained that the United Nations was working with parliaments on the IPoA through initiatives such as meetings organized by the IPU and multi-stakeholder discussions organized by UN agencies working in the LDCs that included members of parliament. The cross-cutting nature of the issues covered by the IPoA meant that there was usually no single parliamentary committee focusing on those matters. However, efforts were being made to ensure that the issues are covered by all standing committees of parliaments. With regard to practical implementation of the IPoA, he noted that it was a permanent item on the agenda of both the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. Many countries did have senior members of relevant ministries working as focal points for the IPoA and the United Nations organized a yearly meeting of national focal points, which took place shortly before any ECOSOC discussions on the issue, together with meetings of the Friends of Least Developed Countries group, jointly chaired by Belgium and Turkey. In addition, members of parliament who were members of development-related committees in their own countries also participated in dialogue with his Office on official development assistance (ODA) in general, although there was no specific focus on LDCs as part of that dialogue. With regard to monitoring and parliamentary involvement, it was important that any monitoring process involved national and international cooperation. Although the IPoA was extremely ambitious, the aspirational nature of the targets was necessary to encourage countries to strive to achieve them. However, ambition alone was not sufficient, an effective plan of action, with strong international support and national ownership was also vital. The United Nations was also endeavouring to provide the necessary information and funding to parliaments to enable them to fulfil their monitoring role. There were some indicators in place but because of their different national circumstances, it had been difficult to develop common indicators for all LDCs. Lastly, equitable and sustainable development of LDCs would be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. J.-M. EHOZOU, Panellist, said that although some progress had been made, the situation of LDCs was becoming increasingly difficult, mainly as a result of unfulfilled donor commitments. In order to achieve the goals of the IPoA, support for and full implementation of relevant programmes and policies were required and new ideas needed to be developed. Despite progress made in areas such as maternal mortality, school attendance and poverty eradication, the MDGs would not be achieved by the target date. To enable countries to graduate from their LDC status, particular attention needed to be paid to developing the agricultural sector. Focusing on subsistence or monoculture farming was no longer sufficient, countries needed to diversify their agricultural production and help should be given to help LDCs gain access to international markets and trade. It would also be vital to create jobs and harness the potential of young people. Although Africa was experiencing a high rate of growth, that growth was often not being distributed fairly and had not led to the creation of jobs. Investment in manufacturing would be key to economic growth. Moreover, the

remittances system should be formalized in order to enable resources coming from diasporas in other countries to be used in a way that would drive development and benefit the whole country, rather than just individual families. Parliaments could study some of those issues as part of their work on the IPoA.

Mr. B.P. BAISHYA (India), drawing attention to the activities undertaken by his country to assist LDCs, including funding, scholarships and capacity-building activities, said that despite healthy rates of growth, many LDCs continued to experience extreme poverty, rising inequality, low productivity, a heavy debt burden and a lack of decent jobs. Furthermore, the global financial crisis had led to declining ODA to those countries. Universal adherence to the IPoA was needed, together with strong support from a wide variety of stakeholders. Donor countries should scale up their commitments in areas such as ODA, market access, capacity-building and technology transfer. Although South-South cooperation was important, it would not replace North-South cooperation. The IPoA had highlighted the role of parliament in the development of LDCs; parliaments could play an important part in ensuring effectiveness, transparency and accountability in the design, implementation and review of IPoA-related policies and programmes.

The delegate from the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES suggested that in light of the importance of the work undertaken by donor parties to provide support to LDCs, it was crucial to look at regional circumstances and the need for national parliaments to consider national enterprises when investing in development activities. In his country, development had been possible in many sectors through the inclusion of training programmes as part of development policies. The international community should consider encouraging investment in development programmes in the short and long term and promoting the role of parliaments in supporting LDCs and asking donor governments to fulfil their aid commitments. Efforts should also be undertaken to facilitate the participation of LDCs in international forums to enable them to have a say in development-related discussions.

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) observed that eradicating poverty was crucial as it would contribute to global peace and prosperity. The IPoA was important and would help all countries, not just LDCs. It was therefore important to develop strong action plans for all countries. He drew attention to the fact that Japan had hosted the fifth Tokyo International Conference of African Development in collaboration with the United Nations, UNDP, the African Union Commission and the World Bank and was actively providing support to African countries, in improving production capacity, agriculture, food security and rural development.

Ms. N. ALADWAN (Saudi Arabia) said that it was important to also examine the challenges faced by donor countries with regard to accountability. High levels of bureaucracy and a lack of transparency were affecting the trust donor countries had in UN agencies. In addition, consideration needed to be given of how to ensure that civil society were able to act as partners and operate freely and transparently. In addition, UN agencies should publically acknowledge the level of support received from the donor community.

Mr. K. DOUMBIA (Mali) stated that there should be greater investment in training and education in LDCs.

Mr. L. KAZABU (Zambia) asked whether the IPoA included specific measures to ensure prudent management of natural resources, particularly land, forests and water.

Mr. P. KARORERO, Panellist, explained that not all elements of the IPoA had indicators, but countries had been encouraged to develop national indicators on those areas. A number of the elements without specific indicators were also contained in the MDGs. With regard to focal points in ministries, he said that sometimes those focal points lacked the necessary authority to trigger activity on the IPoA; however, parliaments could ask their governments to take action in that area.

Ms. A. MAKINDA, Panellist, said that although the IPoA was extremely ambitious, the objectives could be achieved as long as the LDCs recognized the issues that they faced, prepared strategic plans with clear timeframes based on that IPoA and obtained the requisite financial support. Parliaments should then monitor implementation of those strategic plans. It would also be vital to fight corruption.

Mr. J.-M. EHOZOU, Panellist, concurred with the delegate from MALI on the need for good training and education. Developing proper working conditions would also be vital in order to encourage those working abroad to return to their home countries.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS**Sitting of Monday, 7 October**
(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso), President of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, in the Chair.

Session 3: Implications of and action on the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee on UN Affairs was responsible for following negotiations and discussion of the implementation of international commitments, including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). In many countries, people suffered directly and indirectly from poor regulation of the arms trade. Globalization meant that production and manufacture of conventional weapons took place in countries where regulations were often not sufficiently stringent and those weapons were then sold throughout the world. The aim of the ATT was to put an end to the suffering and destruction caused by illicit weapons. He introduced the panellists: Ambassador Woolcott of Australia to Geneva, President of the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, Senator Higonet of Argentina, Mr. J. Sareva, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Disarmament, and Ms. N. Weizmann, Legal Adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross, and explained that Mr. E. Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, would act as Moderator during the session.

The MODERATOR said that his country had experienced significant episodes of terrorism, with recent attacks targeting both locals and foreigners. Such episodes were facilitated by the porous borders between Kenya and its neighbouring countries. The key question to be discussed during the current session was what role members of parliament could play to ensure that the ATT was implemented.

Presentation

Mr. P. WOOLCOTT, Panellist, observed that the adoption of the ATT was an historic moment as the Treaty was the first legally-binding instrument on the arms trade. Negotiations had been complex as the text addressed the concerns of exporting countries, importing countries, those susceptible to armed violence and those that wanted to see universal humanitarian outcomes. It was also important to recognize the significant input of civil society and other stakeholders. Although it had not been possible to reach consensus, the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty had shown what could be achieved when parties were willing to work towards consensus, producing a balanced text requiring compromise from all sides. As President of the Conference, he had been required to report to the UN General Assembly as soon as possible after the closure of the Conference. That had enabled countries to legitimately take the text to the United Nations for adoption. However, such an event should be considered a last resort in negotiations and should not occur on a regular basis in future. It was important to ensure that momentum was maintained and more countries continued to sign and ratify the Treaty. The role of parliamentarians was significant in that regard. The ATT would help to prevent diversion of transferred arms as it required exporting States to analyse the risk of diversion and introduce mitigation mechanisms where necessary. It also facilitated cooperation and exchange of information between exporting, transiting and importing countries. Countries should focus on encouraging early signature and accelerating the ratification process. Some States would be required to enact or adapt legislation and resources would need to be allocated to strengthening national import and export systems and enabling countries to adhere to reporting obligations. Parliaments could

play a monitoring role in that area. In addition, countries that were in a position to do so should allocate funding to providing assistance to States that required legislative, technical or institutional support or capacity building on the issue. He hoped that the momentum and spirit of cooperation would continue.

Ms M. HIGONET, Panellist, noted that the ATT was a legally binding international instrument that contained requirements for States to adhere to controls and guarantees with regard to the transfer of conventional weapons. It also contained specific provisions that governed the action that should be taken when exporting countries had doubts regarding how weapons would be used in the recipient country, addressed the risk of diversion of arms and included mitigation activities to avoid such occurrences. Although it did not specifically state where the risk of diversion was, if all States parties to the Treaty were to enforce those provisions and implement mitigation activities, there would be a positive result. Another important element of the Treaty was that it required countries to provide annual reports on arms transfers. Such reports would help to ensure better cooperation and greater trust between countries. The Treaty would enter into force 90 days after the 50th country ratified it. Once it had entered into force, countries would need to develop or improve the necessary legislation and judicial and policing mechanisms to ensure that implementation was successful. Argentina had been an active participant in the drafting of the Treaty; the illicit trade in weapons created challenges that required urgent and consensual action. The ATT contained clear definitions and was not discriminatory and she therefore urged all countries to commit to its adoption, ratification and implementation.

Mr. J. SAREVA, Panellist, said that the ATT was an important instrument as it lay at the crossroads of arms control, human rights, humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians. The Treaty contained robust provisions and was the best compromise text that could be achieved given the contentious nature of the subject. The main objective of the Treaty was to set the highest possible common standards to regulate the international arms trade, which would make it more difficult for weapons to reach human rights abusers and for governments to transfer arms for illicit uses. One of the main priorities for the future was to encourage signature and ratification of the Treaty. The high number of signatures since the Treaty had been opened for signature in June 2013 was testament of the high level of importance attributed to the Treaty. Consideration should be given to the possibility of holding a high-level inaugural event, with the participation of parliamentarians, on the occasion of the Treaty's entry into force. Implementation of the treaty would require efforts at the national, regional and international levels, and many States would require assistance on implementation, in areas such as capacity building to develop or improve import or export systems, relevant legislation, records keeping and reporting. Countries would be able to request assistance through the submission of their national reports, which would be required within one year of the Treaty's entry into force. The United Nations was keen to play a meaningful role in that regard and, in collaboration with partners such as Australia, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, had launched the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) to facilitate implementation. The United Nations was confident that the ATT would foster peace and security by putting a stop to the destabilizing flow of arms to regions and countries affected by armed conflict and violence. The Treaty was ambitious, but could be achieved if all countries and other stakeholders worked together effectively on implementation. Parliamentarians could play a crucial role in that area, particularly with regard to ratification, the development of transfer control systems and legislation and the monitoring of national implementation.

Ms. N. WEIZMANN, Panellist, explained that during that 1990s, States parties to the Geneva Conventions had asked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to carry out a study of the impact of the unregulated availability of weapons on humanitarian law and on the ability of the ICRC and other organizations to carry out their activities. Unsurprisingly, the study had found that the widespread and poorly regulated availability of weapons increased tension and civilian casualties, hampered delivery of assistance and facilitated violations of international humanitarian law. She welcomed the fact that, despite the diverging views expressed during drafting of the ATT, those concerns were recognized explicitly within the text and that one of its stated aims was to reduce human suffering. Articles 6 and 7 were of particular importance as they contained a prohibition of transfer of arms, ammunition or related components when a State knew that those weapons would be used to carry out genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. In addition, if there was any doubt as to the expected use of the weapons, countries were required to carry out a risk assessment and introduce mitigation measures where necessary. If that assessment found that there was an overriding risk of such uses, then the country was legally bound not to authorize the export. Although such provisions already existed in regional instruments, it was the first time that they appeared in a global, legally binding treaty. The ICRC had developed a number of tools to help States to carry out such risk assessments, which contained clear definitions of relevant terms, proposed indicators for rigorous risk assessments and suggested reliable sources of information.

Debate

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan), welcoming the opening of the ATT for signature, explained that his country had developed three principles on arms exports and comprehensive government guidelines on the issue since 1976. In accordance with those principles and guidelines, Japan did not permit arms exports to countries that were subject to UN arms export embargos or countries that were or were likely to be involved in international conflict. There were also plans to work actively with countries in the region, such as China and the Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic, to advocate signature of the ATT. He urged China and the Russian Federation to sign the Treaty as soon as possible.

Mr. S. JAISMUT (Thailand) said that the adoption of the ATT was a significant step, although much remained to be done. Thailand was fully committed to the implementation of the Treaty and the document would soon be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval. It would be important to consider whether the Treaty would be truly beneficial to Thailand and the South-East Asia region. Effective implementation would require the development of effective national legislation and the establishment of efficient control mechanisms. International cooperation would be vital and he encouraged the IPU, the United Nations and other countries to provide capacity-building assistance to Thailand.

Ms. C. VIENNE (Belgium) opined that there should be increased traceability of weapons, which would furnish producer countries with responsibilities until the end of the supply chain. If weapons produced by a specific country were found in the hands of warlords, for example, it should be possible to ask how they got there and discuss mechanisms to prevent such occurrences from happening in future. In addition, if the ultimate aim was to create a disarmed society, steps should be taken to assist producer countries to refocus their economies towards other sectors.

Mr. S.Y. NAIK (India) noted that the ATT provided a new multilateral framework for transparency and accountability in the arms trade and called upon parliaments to play a pivotal role in ratification and implementation, through the adaption of legislation, allocation of resources and monitoring of progress. The Treaty was a positive step forward as it

recognized that the arms trade was a legitimate activity for defence, national security and foreign policy reasons. India had always exercised a high degree of control over arms imports and exports. Unfortunately, the text of the Treaty fell short of expectations, particularly with regard to a balance of obligations between importing and exporting States. India could not accept that the Treaty could be used as an instrument by exporting States to take unilateral force majeure measures against importing countries without consequences. Such shortcomings might limit universal adherence and reduce the credibility of the ATT. India was currently undertaking an in-depth review of the text, taking into account the country's defence, security and foreign policy interests.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) said that the adoption of the ATT heralded a new era; in order to reduce the illicit use of weapons, good governance was needed, particularly on the part of exporting countries. In addition, there was a need for continued humanitarian assistance for victims of illicit weapons and producing countries should focus on the issue of subcontractors. It was vital that all countries shouldered their responsibilities when it came to the arms trade.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) observed that it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the ATT and a number of countries had decided to force the issue at the UN General Assembly, even though the text did not take into account the legitimate concerns and interests of all countries. As a result, the text had serious limitations and would not be as effective as hoped. Those limitations included numerous ambiguities and inconsistencies that made the text more favourable to exporting countries. In addition, the final version of the text did not contain a prohibition of international arms transfers to individuals, groups and institutions that had not been duly authorized by the government of the receiving State, which severely weakened the Treaty and would legitimize such transfers, constituting a significant violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding non-interference in the internal affairs, political independence and territorial integrity of States. The Treaty also enabled exporting countries to assess importing States using a list of subjective and imprecise criteria that could easily be subject to abuse and manipulation for political reasons. Although Cuba did not see the ATT as an effective document, it would continue to enforce measures to prevent and control the illicit trade of arms and would continue to comply with the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) explained that in his country, the decision on whether to ratify the ATT would be taken after extensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. Despite efforts to control the illicit trade of arms, Pakistan was a victim of terrorism resulting from that illicit trade. The economy was suffering as more was being spent on combatting terrorism than on addressing social problems. He asked what could be done to prevent the Treaty being used to pressure exporting countries into refusing to supply other countries with weapons because of political or strategic considerations. It was important to note that the Treaty was not an arms control treaty as it did not ban the trade in and ownership of weapons, it only sought to regulate those aspects. In addition, he questioned whether the ATT could and should be used as a model for negotiating and concluding other treaties on international security and disarmament.

Ms. I.M. MONTENEGRO (Nicaragua), expressing appreciation for the inclusion of the ATT on the agenda of the 129th IPU Assembly, said that the current discussion would help to raise awareness of the issue among members of parliament. Nicaragua had suffered from the illicit trade in weapons; illicit drug trafficking was also linked to weapons trafficking and that link had not received sufficient attention. In 2005, the Nicaraguan Parliament had promulgated a law that sought to remedy, monitor and regulate the transport of weapons,

munitions, explosives and other related goods as the widespread proliferation of those products had led to increased violence, instability and poor governance. It was important to note that there were non-State actors that also had access to weapons, such as private security agencies. Progress had been made following the promulgation of that law, but challenges remained. Nicaragua had not yet ratified the ATT, but the delegate was keen to study the text and intended to submit it to her parliament for discussion.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS (Mexico) observed that all regions had suffered the consequences of the illicit arms trade, such as genocide, war crimes and organized national and transnational crime. The common interpretation of the consensus rule within the United Nations had sometimes been an impediment to international agreements and for that reason, Mexico was an active supporter of UN reform. Once the ATT had been adopted, it was the responsibility of parliaments to help to achieve ratification of the instrument in their country. In Mexico, lack of regulation of the arms trade had enabled the formation of armed criminal groups; as a result the country had been one of the main advocates of the Treaty and had signed it on the day it was opened for signature. In addition, it had recently become the first country in Latin America and the seventh in the world to ratify the ATT. She suggested that the Committee on UN Affairs could request the President of the IPU to advocate ratification of the ATT as part of his closing statement.

Mr. C. SANTOKHI (Suriname) explained that, as a member of the Organization of American States, Suriname was in the process of implementing the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Explosives, and Other Related Materials. He welcomed the adoption of the ATT as it represented an international approach to the issue rather than just a regional one. He asked for the opinion of the panellist from Argentina on the impact of the Treaty on the Inter-American Convention. In addition, he wished to know what impact the ATT would have on the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

Mr. H. MOSSI (East African Legislative Assembly – EALA) said that a strategy should be developed to raise awareness of the ATT in different countries, together with a follow-up mechanism to enable parliaments to assess the success of the awareness-raising strategy.

Mr. M. LUNGU (Zambia), expressing strong condemnation of the recent terrorist attacks in Kenya, observed that the objective of the ATT was to reduce human suffering and therefore it deserved the support of all countries. He hoped that parliamentarians would receive support to raise awareness of the Treaty in their country and among their governments to ensure everything possible was done to stop proliferation of the arms trade. It was disappointing that only seven out of 132 signatory countries had ratified the Treaty. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in encouraging their governments to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

Mr. I. KOOHEJI (Bahrain) said that a proactive approach was needed to ensure that countries adhered to the provisions of the ATT once they had ratified it. For example, countries that respected and abided by the Treaty should receive increased support from the United Nations, while those that did not should receive sanctions.

Mr. P. WOOLCOTT, Panellist, opined that the treaty balanced the interests of importers, exporters and affected States, particularly as it contained references to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. With regard to the question on political considerations from the delegate from PAKISTAN, the Treaty also established a dispute mechanism that could be used by States, and the meetings of States Parties to the Convention would also provide an opportunity for countries to air their concerns. The reporting mechanisms set out in the Treaty would also serve to improve transparency. As regards using the Treaty negotiations process as

a model for other deliberations, he said that it was not clear whether such a process would be successful in other cases; whether it should be used would depend on the circumstances and the issue being discussed.

Ms. M. HIGONET, Panellist, said that concerns had been expressed that the ATT created obligations for States but not for those that continued to illicitly traffic weapons, therefore countries should focus on improving their domestic legislation on the issue. One of the positive aspects of the Treaty was that it required steps to be taken to build trust between countries. With regard to the comment on the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Explosives, and Other Related Materials, she said that a significant proportion of the Convention covered firearms that were owned by civilians; that Convention could only serve to benefit world peace and security.

Mr. J. SAREVA, Panellist, stated that the concept of adoption by consensus was a difficult issue; it was often argued that using the consensus model for matters related to national security was the best option as it was important to include all countries. However, moderation and self-restraint should be used with regard to exercising the right to call for consensus. It should be noted that sometimes common security should take precedence over national interests. With regard to the comment by the delegate from BAHRAIN regarding a proactive approach to implementation, he explained that the UN system used both incentives and sanctions where necessary, but in the area of conventional arms control, incentives had proved more effective. Lack of implementation was often the result of lack of capacity and the United Nations and its Member States could play a significant role in addressing that problem, through the provision of regulatory or legislative assistance.

The CHAIR thanked the panellists and the delegates for their contributions.

Launch of United Nations Handbook

Ambassador ELLIS (New Zealand) said that she was honoured to present the 51st edition of the United Nations Handbook, which had been produced by the New Zealand Mission to the United Nations. As a small mission, it had found the UN system difficult to navigate, so the notes of representatives of the Mission had been collected and developed into the Handbook to provide guidance to facilitate effective engagement with the United Nations. The Handbook was also available in the form of a smartphone application. As a small country, New Zealand was always looking for innovative ways to act and she hoped that the Handbook would be of use to Members of the IPU.

The meeting was suspended at 4.25 p.m. and resumed at 4.35 p.m.

Session 4: Implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)

The PRESIDENT introduced the panellists: Ambassador Oh Joon, Chair of the 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York; Mr. W.P.S. Sidhu, Center on International Cooperation, New York University; Ms. U. Zapf, Sub-Committee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation, German Bundestag; Mr. S. Spence, Senior Legal Officer, Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC); and Mr. E. Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya.

Presentation

Mr. OH JOON, Panellist, explained that the 1540 Committee had been established by UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). That resolution contained three principal obligations for Member States, namely to refrain from providing any form of assistance to non-State actors that sought to obtain or develop weapons of mass destruction (WMDs); to adopt and enforce appropriate laws to prohibit and persecute such activities by non-State actors; and to establish domestic controls over WMDs and related materials. The implementation of resolution 1540 would require sustained cooperation between all stakeholders and it was crucial that all States adopted effective legislation; the sharing of experiences was important, but should be noted that one approach would not suit all countries. However, synergies with existing mechanisms to combat crimes such as money laundering and trafficking of weapons and drugs could be exploited. In addition, existing non-proliferation regimes could play a complementary and reinforcing role and the resolution stated that none of its provisions conflicted with or altered the rights and obligations of States parties to multilateral non-proliferation treaties.

He was encouraged that many countries had already taken measures to implement resolution 1540 and welcomed the high level of voluntary reports submitted. Those countries that were yet to submit an implementation report were encouraged to do so as soon as possible; to achieve universal reporting by the end of 2014 would be a significant milestone. Regular reporting was important and the UN Security Council had called on Member States to develop national action plans to map out their key priorities in implementation of the resolution, such as addressing gaps in existing legislation. The 1540 Committee could provide States with capacity-building assistance in many areas, including developing legislation and regulatory mechanisms, training and obtaining proper equipment. States could also invite the Committee to visit their countries and conduct a review of their regulatory instruments. Such visits were useful, as they enabled the Committee to engage with a wide range of government agencies. Smaller scale visits were also possible to provide assistance on developing national action plans. Parliamentarians had a key role to play in the drafting and adoption of appropriate legislative measures and in carrying out awareness-raising activities. The 1540 Committee planned to engage more with parliamentarians in the coming years. Lastly, he recalled that a key aspect of UN Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) on the destruction of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic was the requirement for States to report violations of resolution 1540.

Mr. W.P.S. SIDHU, Panellist, said that resolution 1540 marked one of the first times that the UN Security Council had legislated on an issue; it would be important to understand how that body dealt with the challenges and what impact it would have on how members of parliament addressed the subject. There was particular concern regarding WMDs being obtained by terrorists and being used by opposition groups in civil wars; for example in the most recent case in the Syrian Arab Republic, it was not clear which party had used the chemical weapons. In addition, terrorist groups and other non-State actors were increasingly able to operate across other countries, as was the case with the Dr A.Q. Khan Network, which was known to involve individuals in Malaysia, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. As a result, an international instrument was needed to deal with the issue at the global level. The measures needed to implement resolution 1540 could be seen as a development tool as they would help develop law and order facilities and effective border controls and the technology used to detect attacks with WMDs could also be used to detect outbreaks of disease. The resolution also provided a political basis to address the challenges related to the proliferation of WMDs. The increasing ability of terrorist groups to work across borders meant that countries would need to increase cooperation with other States and actors to address

terrorism. In addition, some States would require support and capacity-building in order to fulfil the obligations set forth in resolution 1540, particularly as resolution 2112 (2013) had made reporting mandatory.

Ms. U. ZAPF, Panellist, said that Germany was party to a number of relevant international instruments; the Sub-Committee that she chaired enjoyed close collaboration with the Government and actively engaged in discussions related to legislation on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation of WMDs. Moreover, representatives of the Sub-Committee usually formed part of the German delegation to international forums and meetings on those issues, particularly with regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Since the 1990s, Germany had been providing assistance to the Russian Federation on the destruction of their chemical weapons stocks; those projects were closely monitored by the Sub-Committee, which conducted field visits to sites and cooperated closely with the Russian Government to facilitate the ongoing success of the projects. There were also projects in the nuclear sphere, including the provision of security to weapons storage facilities and the Sub-Committee had also engaged with the organizers of the Nunn Lugar project, which had ended the previous year. Germany had a lot of experience in a number of fields, such as export controls, legislation and practical safety aspects and was well-placed to provide assistance to other countries in those areas within the framework of resolution 1540. It was important that countries strengthened their relevant legal instruments and that a continuous revision process was adopted. The international community should come together to share experiences and support individual countries on the implementation of resolution 1540. Lastly, strong export controls were important, but it was also crucial that they were properly implemented; parliamentarians should play a monitoring role to ensure that their government did not give in to undue pressure from industries.

Mr. S. SPENCE, Panellist, remarked that it was important that parliaments passed legislation regarding all forms of WMDs; the legal framework should include certain prohibitions regarding chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; systems to account for and secure double use goods; and effective physical protection measures, border controls and law enforcement, and national export and transshipment controls. Any legislation should be tailored to national circumstances and the relevant constitutional legal processes. There were three main ways to implement resolution 1540. Some States, mainly common law countries, had stand-alone legislation, which was often comprehensive and included biosecurity measures, licenses and inspections. Other States had an overarching law on all WMDs, which included licensing regimes, penal provisions and the establishment of national authorities on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; in such cases, the monitoring and security measures and the criminal provisions differed depending on the type of WMD. Lastly, other States, mainly civil law countries, used multiple laws to implement the resolution, amending legislation where necessary, for example in the areas of export control and enforcement, to incorporate the provisions of the resolution. Unfortunately there were often still gaps in legislation and members of parliament could help to ensure the adoption of effective legislation. Implementation of resolution 1540 was important as it enabled States to investigate, prosecute and punish offences and monitor and supervise activities. It also enhanced public health and national security and demonstrated to potential investors that the country in question was a safe and responsible location for activities involving related materials. There were numerous bodies that could provide implementation assistance, including the 1540 Committee, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and VERTIC. VERTIC was not restricted by mandate and could therefore provide assistance across the chemical, biological and nuclear spheres. It had developed a number of tools to aid States in that regard, including the Sample Act to implement the Biological Weapons Convention, the Nuclear Security Legislation Kit, and the Legislative Guide to National Implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. E. ETHURO, Panellist, observed that the subject of the emergency item to be discussed during the current IPU Assembly demonstrated the high level of interest in the issue of non-proliferation and WMDs. Through their role as policy-shapers, parliamentarians could play an important part in addressing the issue, helping to ensure that nuclear weapon States fulfilled their international obligations and that non-nuclear weapon States started taking steps to build a framework for a world free of nuclear weapons, through the development of comprehensive legislation and technical, political and institutional mechanisms to address the destruction and non-proliferation of WMDs. Parliaments should hold their governments accountable, particularly with regard to fulfilment of international commitments, and help to focus political attention and diplomatic resources on achieving results. Parliaments were the bridge between governments and civil society and had an important oversight role.

The PRESIDENT explained that Mr. W.P.S. Sidhu would act as Moderator during the session.

Debate

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) said that his country had enacted multiple pieces of legislation to control the export of the components of WMDs in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Steps had also been taken to improve security measures and Japan actively participated in and contributed to international export control regimes and security initiatives. More information on other countries' approaches to implementation of resolution 1540 would be welcome.

Mr. I. NADIMI (Islamic Republic of Iran), expressing deep concern at the proliferation of terrorism, including State terrorism, in the Middle East region, which was often fuelled by conflicts imposed by non-regional powers, said that the double standards imposed by certain countries impeded the fight against terrorism. The most effective way of preventing non-State actors from acquiring WMDs was to completely eliminate such weapons; non-proliferation and disarmament were two sides of the same coin and the emphasis on preventing non-State actors from obtaining such weapons should not draw attention away from the objective of disarmament. His country was a party to all international instruments banning WMDs and had always considered the possession, acquisition, development of such weapons to be immoral and illegal. In order to implement resolution 1540, Iran had enacted a set of laws to ban and combat the smuggling of any kinds of weapons and ammunition. However, it was important to note that the obligations set forth in the resolution should not be interpreted in a way that alters the rights and obligations enshrined in internationally-negotiated instruments.

The MODERATOR said that resolution 1540 did not prevent countries from exercising their rights under other agreements. He asked whether disarmament alone would prevent the use of WMDs by non-State actors.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) stated that his country shared the concerns of other speakers regarding the possibility of non-State actors, including the Dr A.Q. Khan Network, acquiring WMDs and their means of delivery and therefore supported the objectives of resolution 1540, which filled a gap in the international non-proliferation legal framework. Pakistan had taken a practical approach to the implementation of resolution 1540 to ensure effective enforcement of the specific provisions of the text regarding different types of WMDs. As part of that approach, it had established a national interagency taskforce to review the implementation of the resolution. The taskforce had reviewed the relevant existing legislative, regulatory and administrative structures, identified areas requiring improvement and made recommendations for the adoption of new regulatory and legislative instruments and enforcement mechanisms. Pakistan would be happy to share its experiences in the areas of export control, nuclear security and related matters. His country continued to be a victim of terrorism; terrorists often

had access to the most modern weapons, although it was not clear from where they obtained them. He therefore urged the relevant bodies to look into the issue. In addition, he asked why resolution 1540 could not be transformed into an international convention.

Mr. C.-G. COMȘA (Romania) said that his country fully supported efforts to strengthen the international nuclear security framework and committed to implementing UN Security Council resolutions 1540 and 1887. The IAEA had a central role to play in mainstreaming international efforts. As a member of the European Union, Romania was also strongly in favour of the goals of European Union Strategy against the proliferation of WMDs. However, his country was concerned by the serious challenges to the non-proliferation regime posed by certain countries. As a country with a civilian nuclear programme, Romania advocated the right of any State to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy provided that they complied with the conditions on non-proliferation, safety and security. The non-proliferation treaty (NPT) was a key pillar of international security as it proved a framework for preserving and strengthening international peace and security while at the same time enabling countries to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. Therefore, full universal implementation of the Treaty was crucial.

Mr. S.Y. NAIK (India), expressing support for the objectives of resolution 1540 said that one of the main responsibilities of parliamentarians was to ensure that the necessary legal instruments were adopted to help protect citizens from terrorism. India had enacted a number of laws and introduced administrative mechanisms to prevent non-State actors from obtaining WMDs. Since the adoption of resolution 1540, India had taken steps to further strengthen the relevant legislative and regulatory mechanisms, particularly with regard to export control, and had submitted the necessary reports. His country stood ready to provide capacity-building assistance to other countries to enable them to fulfil their obligations under the resolution. Implementation of resolution 1540 should be based on the national practices and processes over individual countries and any assistance from other countries or stakeholders should take those practices into account.

Mr. A. NIYAMAVEJA (Thailand) said that his country believed that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation were crucial ways to achieve international peace and security. Thailand had therefore taken steps to strengthen relevant national mechanisms through the work of designated national focal points and the implementation of legal instruments to support international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs and related material. An integrated export control system, incorporating licencing and enforcement activities, was also being developed in order to enable Thailand to control the transfer of relevant materials, particularly dual-use goods. Prevention of proliferation of WMDs was the responsibility of all States and he therefore urged all countries to fulfil their obligations and commitments under the relevant disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and conventions and resolution 1540 by implementing and strengthening domestic legislation in those areas.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) observed that since the adoption of resolution 1540, her country had taken practical measures to ensure its full implementation. In addition, Cuba was a strong advocate of the complete prohibition and elimination of WMDs at the global level. Cuba had national programmes for the peaceful use of nuclear, biological and chemical technologies and had been recognized for its strict compliance with its international obligations in those areas. However, she expressed concern that the UN Security Council, whose membership was limited and where some members had the right to veto, continued to carry out activities outside of its mandate. Resolution 1540 covered an issue that should be examined within the framework of the traditional multilateral disarmament machinery. International legal obligations could only be established with the full participation of Member States and their signature and ratification of the multilateral treaties and agreements. Cuba

had been the victim of terrorism organized with the support of a foreign government, but despite reporting those events to the UN Security Council, no concrete response had been received. It was time eradicate double standards and work together on such an important issue in which parliaments could play an important role.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that the production of WMDs was a danger to international peace and security; despite that fact, many countries were investing in development of such technologies. Bahrain had legislation in place to prevent the production and purchase of WMDs and she urged all countries to ratify the NPT and to strengthen mechanisms for inspection of locations where nuclear weapons were developed and stored. Countries should be obliged to ratify the relevant treaties and ensure the peaceful use of chemical, biological and nuclear technologies. It would be important to involve civil society to educate people on the dangers of nuclear weapons and the importance of non-proliferation.

Mr. A.O. AL MANSOORI (United Arab Emirates) observed that there were close links between non-proliferation and regulation of the arms trade and he wondered how governments could be encouraged not to separate those issues. There was a clear gap between national and international interests in that area. How could systematic standards be implemented in that regard? Countries approached the issue of non-proliferation from a variety of perspectives, including those related to legal issues, security concerns, political views and national pride. Discussion of non-proliferation should involve multiple sectors and it was important to find a balance between sovereignty and common interests. He asked what steps could be taken by the United Nations to empower and involve parliaments in discussions on current and other issues.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France), recalling that resolution 1540 imposed a number of binding obligations that required appropriate legislation, monitoring and control, explained that his country did not have general legislation on WMDs; it had multiple pieces of legislation that covered all aspects of the issue. The sanctions in legislation dealing with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons were particularly strong, especially regarding non-declaration of use for materials with dual uses. There were also specific penal provisions on the matter. Developing and strengthening legislation was of utmost importance and the European Union and its Member States recognized the need for a coordinated approach.

Mr. S. SPENCE, Panellist, acknowledged that resolution 1540 was a sensitive issue but encouraged parliamentarians to study the text as its aim was to protect citizens. However, deciding how to incorporate the provisions of the resolution into national legislation was a sovereign decision.

Ms. U. ZAPF, Panellist, agreed that some countries that had nuclear weapons were unwilling to destroy them for reasons of security or national pride. Agreement on unified standards would be an important step forward to achieving global zero; a convention was needed that was acceptable to all and did not discriminate against any country.

The MODERATOR said that a key question was whether it was in the interests of any country to have WMDs used by non-State actors within their territories; it was important to strengthen mechanisms to ensure that such occurrences did not happen and resolution 1540 was not the only mechanism that could be used in that regard. Resolution 1540 had mainly been seen as a counter-terrorism tool, but could also provide support in the development of systems needed to enforce that resolution, such as border controls and improved law and order.

Mr. OH JOON, Panellist, observed that there appeared to be some confusion regarding resolution 1540 as the text covered the transfer of WMDs to non-State actors rather than disarmament at the national level. With regard to the legitimacy of obligations imposed on UN Member States, he explained that by joining the United Nations, all Member States accepted Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations, which stated that Member States agreed to comply with decisions taken by the UN Security Council. Lastly, it should be noted that no provisions of resolution 1540 affected countries' obligations under other international instruments.

The meeting rose at 6.35 p.m.

IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS**Sitting of Wednesday, 9 October**

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.00 a.m. with Mr. L. Gallegos, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations Office at Geneva, acting as Moderator.

Session 5: Promoting international commitments and defending the rights of vulnerable groups: Indigenous peoples; and Persons with disabilities**Segment 1: Indigenous groups**

The MODERATOR introduced the panellists: Mr. A. Tsykarev, Member of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Ms. M. Schick, Director of the Swiss Section of Amnesty International; Mr. T. Henare, Member of Parliament of New Zealand; and Mr. D. Sánchez Heredia, Member of Parliament of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Presentation

Mr. A. TSYKAREV, Panellist, said that parliaments had a central role to play in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples by adopting both legislation recognizing the rights of those groups and budgetary provisions to enable the implementation of such legislation. However, it should also be noted that indigenous peoples were indirectly affected by most areas of legislation, such as health care, education, and environment and forests. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was the most explicit international instrument in terms of indigenous peoples' right to participate in politics and included provisions on the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination and their need to seek free, prior and informed consent for projects that affected their land. The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples had carried out a survey in 2013, at the request of the Human Rights Council, seeking the views of States and indigenous peoples on best practices and strategies for the implementation of UNDRIP. It had also developed a handbook for parliaments entitled *Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, in collaboration with a number of organizations, including the IPU.

Highlighting unique arrangements for the participation of indigenous peoples in the political sphere, including the Sami Parliaments in some northern countries and the guaranteed Maori seats in New Zealand's Parliament, he said it was important to also ensure that the election of indigenous representatives also translated into their influence in decision-making. The establishment of parliamentary committees on indigenous issues was one way to address that. Although no States had passed specific laws requiring the UN Declaration to be considered when devising new laws and policies, some countries used the principles of the Declaration to inform processes leading to new legislation and policies. Lastly, he drew attention to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014, and the need to take into account the Alta outcome document that had emanated from the Global Indigenous Preparatory Conference held in June 2013.

Ms. M. SCHICK, Panellist, said that Amnesty International had lobbied hard for the adoption of the UN Declaration. However, despite progress made in many countries, the rights of indigenous peoples and the provisions of the Declaration were not always respected. There were a number of mechanisms available to assist indigenous peoples, for example the

Universal Periodic Review process and the numerous UN treaty bodies, such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which often issued recommendations and opinions on relevant issues. Members of parliament, indigenous peoples and NGOs should work together to defend those mechanisms and the provisions of the Declaration, particularly as some countries wished to change the wording of certain provisions, which would greatly weaken the instrument. Another area where parliaments could play a crucial role was through the adoption of binding rules for multinational corporations on the treatment of indigenous peoples. Although such corporations often adopted voluntary measures such as the concept of corporate social responsibility, their subsidiary companies and offices often failed to respect the rights of indigenous peoples. Those offices were often based on countries where the justice system limited the ability of victims to defend themselves and receive reparation. Parliaments should introduce legally binding measures that would help those victims access justice in their own countries and in the countries in which the corporations were headquartered. The European Union had developed a number of relevant standards. Lastly, members of parliament had a pivotal role to play in respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and it was vital that indigenous peoples were involved in that work, through consultations and informed consent.

Mr. T. HENARE, Panellist, observed that it was crucial to protect and enhance indigenous cultures. In his country, the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840 had played a significant role in reconciliation with the country's indigenous people, the Maori, as it took into account the needs and wishes of both the colonizers and the indigenous peoples. As a result, the different population groups in New Zealand had a unique way of working together. Like other indigenous peoples, the Maori had suffered discrimination and difficulties, particularly with regard to education and health care. However, steps had been taken to address those issues, for example through the establishment of schools where teaching took place entirely in the Maori language and included teaching of Maori culture and history. In addition, there was a Maori Language Commission and a Maori-language television channel. All of those measures had been instrumental in saving and protecting that language, use of which had been dying out only 50 or 60 years previously. Other indigenous groups, such as the Sami and Hawaiian peoples, had also undertaken similar activities to protect their language and culture. Another measure in place in New Zealand to ensure the participation of the Maori in the political sphere was the allocation of seats in parliament for indigenous representatives. In the beginning there had been four seats, but now there were seven. However, it was important to note that there were many different ways to protect indigenous peoples and facilitate their participation in society and politics, and not all options would work for all countries. There was no one-size-fits-all solution.

Mr. D. SÁNCHEZ HEREDIA, Panellist, explained that there were 27 different indigenous groups in his country, which was the reason it was known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia. However, despite 50 per cent of the population being indigenous, in the past there had been significant opposition to the participation of those groups in the political sphere. As an indigenous member of parliament, he himself had been subjected to threats, discrimination and attacks. Progress was now being made, with the adoption of a new Constitution and legislation on violence that contained specific provisions protecting women and particularly indigenous women. Other legislation had also been adopted that incorporated the rights of indigenous peoples and work was ongoing on a law against racism and all forms of discrimination. In addition, there was a high proportion of indigenous representation in the political arena, with 37 indigenous members of the Senate and seven seats in the Chamber of Deputies guaranteed for indigenous representatives. There were activities in place to encourage intercultural exchanges and to strengthen the identities of indigenous peoples; in addition, different types of economies, including private firms and cooperative, were respected, which had led to economic growth and a reduction in poverty. Legislation was also

being developed to enforce the provision in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples. The 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples would be an ideal forum at which to discuss States' compliance with the Declaration. His country planned to hold an international seminar on indigenous peoples prior to that Conference, which he hoped would be an opportunity to demonstrate the progress this had made and share experiences.

Debate

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) observed that some countries refused to acknowledge and respect the human rights of their indigenous peoples. It was important to consider the wishes of indigenous peoples, which he believed were to be recognized as distinct groups with unique cultures and to have the right to pass that culture on to their children; the right to lands that they had traditionally owned, occupied or used; for governments to respect their ability to determine their own destinies; to enjoy the same rights as all other people; and to be left alone. The IPU should encourage its Member Parliaments to pass resolutions protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples, based on the above-mentioned elements.

Mr. H. YOSHIDA (Japan) explained that the Ainu people were an indigenous group from the north of Japan with a distinct language, religion and culture which had been affected by development and assimilation policies of the past. However, until recently, no legislation had recognized the Ainu as an indigenous people, and the discrimination and resulting economic hardship experienced by the group made preservation of its culture difficult. The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was an invaluable instrument and parliaments had a crucial role to play in ensuring that government policy was in line with international guidelines, in particular by submitting policy guidelines to the government and by monitoring the implementation of government policies.

The delegate from ECUADOR explained that his country had recently taken the decision to suspend the Yasuni-ITT Initiative. However it had developed new codes of conduct and new policies related to uncontacted groups or groups living in voluntary isolation, which included the suspension of all extraction activities in the areas in which those groups were found. In addition, prior consent from indigenous groups for activities in their lands was a constitutional requirement; a regional policy on indigenous rights had also been agreed as it was important to recognize that indigenous groups often lived in transboundary areas. His country was developing draft legislation on the equality of all peoples, including indigenous groups and other ethnic groups that had historically suffered from discrimination and exclusion. In conclusion, he stated that 30 per cent of representatives in the National Assembly were indigenous.

Ms. A. IBRO NA-ALLA (Niger) stated that her country was made up of a number of different ethnic groups that lived in harmony with one another. The Tuareg people were the main indigenous group in the Saharan region and enjoyed representation at all levels of government. Parliamentarians had an important role to play in the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples through the adoption of legislation to ensure that all peoples enjoyed the same rights. The Electoral Code of the country included measures to ensure that ethnic minorities and indigenous groups were properly represented in the political sphere, such as the establishment of special electoral districts.

The delegate from the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES observed that it was important that legislation on indigenous peoples also included provisions to protect those groups from the impact of globalization. It was vital to protect indigenous people all over the world, particularly groups that had been forgotten by the international community, such as the indigenous

groups from the United Arab Emirates that lived on islands that had been occupied by another country. Those groups suffered significant discrimination and were often forced to emigrate from their ancestral lands. He urged the international community to reaffirm the importance of protection all peoples and to pay due attention to the plight of the indigenous groups living on those islands.

The delegate of INDIA said that taking into account the criteria used to define the term "indigenous people" in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 (1989), his country defined its entire population as indigenous. India was strongly committed to promoting and protecting human rights; in a truly pluralistic society, the growth and well-being of society could only be ensured through the protection of those rights and he welcomed international efforts to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples into national policies and development plans. For democracy to be strengthened, it was important to provide adequate safeguards for all sections of society, particularly marginalized and disadvantaged groups and India had numerous constitutional provisions, legislative measures, policies and programmes in place. As the representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a certain responsibility to raising awareness among citizens of the needs of vulnerable groups and could play an important role in shaping legislation to protect the interests of those groups.

Ms. T. BOONTONG (Thailand) explained that although her country was party to international agreements aimed at protecting and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples, Thailand did not, as such, have any indigenous people. However, it did have ethnic minorities that had fully integrated into Thai society after arriving as immigrants. Thailand had a national strategy in place to promote the human rights of immigrants and ensure that they did not become vulnerable groups; immigrants had the right to maintain their customs but were also encouraged to participate in community activities. Ethnic minority groups were guaranteed access to health care and education and were entitled to projects to improve their quality of life through training, agricultural projects and employment opportunities. Parliaments should work with civil society to integrate the rights of indigenous peoples into international development agendas, policies and programmes at all levels. They should also review, and revise where necessary, legislation, policies and programmes on indigenous issues to ensure that they were consistent with relevant international instruments.

Ms. H.A. SETIAWATY (Indonesia) said that although Indonesia did not have indigenous peoples, per se, it did have a wide variety of ethnic groups, each of which had their own unique cultures, traditions, languages and most of which adhered to the norms of the Adat community. Indonesia was committed to protecting the traditional collective rights of that community, which were recognized in the Constitution. In addition, a bill was currently being drafted on the protection of the rights of the Adat community.

Mr. A. MISIEKABA (Suriname) stated that approximately 20 per cent of the population of his country were considered to be indigenous. Despite the efforts of successive governments to enforce the rights of those people, it had been difficult to reach political consensus on the issue as a large proportion of the non-indigenous population did not acknowledge the rights of indigenous peoples. He wished to know how the Plurinational State of Bolivia had tackled that problem.

The representative from the INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION underscored that ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples were complementary instruments and should be used together. At the heart of the Convention was the need for broad consultation, participation and consent of indigenous peoples. It was important to note that as an international treaty, the Convention was subject to ratification by States, unlike the Declaration. ILO worked closely with the UN

Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on Indigenous Rights, and the Universal Periodic Review recommendations often pointed to the need to ratify ILO Convention No. 169 (1989). Another important instrument was ILO Convention No. 111 (1958), which included traditional occupations of indigenous peoples in its definition of occupation and employment.

The delegate from SOUTH AFRICA observed that the rights of indigenous peoples was a sensitive issue; marginalization of indigenous peoples in the past had made it difficult to create social cohesion as often only one group was committed to achieving such cohesion. It was disappointing to see languages facing extinction as a result of lack of use. South Africa had adopted legislation to protect indigenous languages. He suggested that when the topic of indigenous peoples appeared on the agendas of international meetings, members of indigenous groups should be included in country delegations to those meetings.

The delegate from the UNITED KINGDOM, noting that many parliaments were doing their utmost to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples, wondered if there was a way indigenous groups could tap into funding provided by the UK Government to the United Nations. In addition, he asked at what point an indigenous group became an ethnic minority.

The delegate from the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO said that the rights of indigenous peoples were of particular importance in his country because it had a large indigenous population. The main group, the Pygmy people, had now fully integrated into society, but had suffered discrimination in the past. As there were a large number of different indigenous and ethnic groups within country, the Constitution guaranteed the same rights and obligations to all groups, but did not mention specific groups. As a result, the country had not experienced tribal warfare as there was no discrimination against groups based on ethnic grounds.

Mr. G.P. YOSIWO (Federated States of Micronesia) said that 80 to 90 per cent of the population of his country was considered to be indigenous; he shared the concern of the South African delegate about the erosion and extinction of indigenous languages. Although there were legislation and provisions in the Constitution to protect the interests and cultures of indigenous groups, some languages had been ignored and were being eroded, mainly as a result of increased globalization. He requested assistance from the IPU to help protect indigenous languages.

The delegate from BAHRAIN said that when discussing such an important topic, it was crucial to remember the situation of the Palestinian people; their culture was slowly being eroded through the actions of another country which, for example, enforced the use of a different language. He called on parliamentarians to express support for and solidarity with that group.

Mr. A. TSYKAREV, Panellist, welcomed the comments regarding the importance of saving and protecting indigenous languages, particularly the comments regarding the language nest method used in New Zealand. It was very important to use indigenous languages in parliamentary work. Many indigenous groups did not understand, for example, the official UN languages and therefore, there was scope for countries to produce some of their documents in the languages of their indigenous peoples. Welcoming the mention of ILO Convention No. 169 (1989), he highlighted another relevant Convention, the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. It should be remembered that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was an international instrument that built on and promoted existing rights enshrined in other treaties. There was symbolic value in a country stating that it supported the Declaration, particularly as some States had not supported its adoption. With regard to financial support for indigenous peoples, the

UN Expert Mechanism had recommended that States and the UN system should provide indigenous peoples with financial support for their preparatory process for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Some States had already done so by donating funds to the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. It had also proposed that companies active in the extractive industry should provide financial support to indigenous peoples.

Mr. T. HENARE, Panellist, said that being indigenous was not a lifestyle choice; it was based on genealogy, culture and who a person was. Integration was a positive step forward, provided that it occurred on terms acceptable to both groups. Recognition of indigenous cultures, for example through the growing use of indigenous tattoos among other ethnic groups, was also a welcome occurrence.

Ms. M. SCHICK, Panellist, welcoming the numerous references to national laws guaranteeing the rights of indigenous peoples, said that despite the adoption of those laws, countries often did not have follow-up plans to implement the legislation. Laws alone were not enough; action plans were also needed to implement the provisions. For example, in Colombia, despite indigenous peoples only making up 3 per cent of the population, 20 per cent of those subjected to enforced disappearance were indigenous and in Canada, indigenous girls and women were seven times more likely to be victims of domestic violence. Specific measures and actions were needed to address those problems. Most national statistics did not include disaggregated data related to indigenous groups, so it was difficult to know whether national action plans were needed to address their specific needs. Parliamentarians should take steps to ensure that relevant and effective measures were introduced in order to implement relevant provisions.

Mr. D. SÁNCHEZ HEREDIA, Panellist, observed that a seminar would be held in the city of La Paz in 2014, which would address all of the issues raised during the current discussion. He acknowledged the comment from the delegate from SURINAME and said that to address the issue it was important to look at and understand the history of the country and to acknowledge and protect intercultural diversity.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 10.55 a.m., with Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso) in the Chair and Mr. L. Gallegos (Ecuador) continuing to act as Moderator.

Segment 2: Persons with disabilities

The MODERATOR said that significant progress had been made on the issue of disability during the previous decade, culminating in the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was important to note that persons with disabilities were not a minority group; ultimately during the course of their lives, all people would suffer from some form of disability, whether as a result of illness, accident, malnutrition or simply old age. He introduced the panellists: Ms. V. Lee, International Disability Alliance (IDA); Mr. M. Tomassoni, Member of Parliament of San Marino; and Ms. I. Heindorf, World Future Council (WFC).

Presentation

Ms. V. LEE, Panellist, remarked that persons with disabilities were the world's largest and most frequently overlooked minority group; IDA's mission was to promote the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and compliance across all activities within the UN system and the global development framework. The previous, medical-based approach to dealing with persons with disabilities had denied respect for their right to make decisions and participate directly in public and political life. Third parties often spoke on their behalf and they were invisible in society. The entry into force of the Convention had caused a paradigm shift to a human rights-based approach, recognizing that the voices of such people must be respected on an equal basis with other citizens. Enshrined in the Convention were the rights to vote and stand for election. The Convention also called on States to consult with persons with disabilities on the development of legislation and policies that would affect them. However, institutional and attitude-related barriers continued to prevent such activities and some States continued to have legislation excluding persons with disabilities from political participation based on the removal of legal capacity or perceived incapacity and as a result of inaccessible elections and information. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had continuously called for any such legislation, which usually affected persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, persons under guardianship and those residing in institutions, to be repealed. Innovation and positive measures were vital to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and support the paradigm shift brought on by the adoption of the Convention. Members of parliament had an important role to play by consulting with persons with disabilities and disabled persons' organizations to ensure that their experiences and views were taken into account in the drafting of legislation; lobbying, where necessary, for the ratification of the Convention; and engaging in legal and constitutional reform and repealing discriminatory provisions that denied the rights of persons with disabilities. Steps should also be taken to ensure that information about elections was made available in accessible languages and formats. A good example of such an approach was in Israel, where information on the election process, candidates and political platforms were provided in plain language to enable persons with learning difficulties to make informed choices. That information had also been of use to the general public, particularly immigrants and the elderly. Political parties should also adopt measures to encourage disabled candidates to run for office and steps should be taken to make parliaments accessible to all, including awareness training on the needs of vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI, Panellist, welcoming the high level of engagement by the IPU on the rights of persons with disabilities, said that the participation of persons with disabilities in the political sphere was still limited in many countries. In addition, the issue received little coverage on the agenda of the majority of intergovernmental organizations and it was difficult to see what place disability would have in the post-2015 development agenda. He introduced the Call to Act on Ensuring the Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Political and Public Life, which had been prepared in collaboration with Ms. H. Bogopane, MP, and a number of other parliamentarians and organizations, including the WFC. The recommendations set forth in the document were focused on efforts to ensure that democracy and political participation were open to all. Likening the efforts made in previous decades to ensure the full participation of women in all spheres to the current fight for equal rights for peoples with disabilities, he recalled that the CRPD and the acknowledgement of the social model of the concept of disability had greatly changed perceptions on the issue. However, adoption of that Convention had not yet fully translated into political action; progress was extremely slow and many activities undertaken were inefficient and did not enhance the quality of life and independence of persons with disabilities. The obstacles they faced greatly hindered the moral, cultural and economic development of countries and society as a whole. The ILO

estimated that global losses as a result of unemployment among persons with disabilities were between 3 and 7 per cent of GDP. In developing countries, the challenges faced by such persons were significantly harsher, particularly with regard to health care, education and employment. The Call to Act document called on IPU Members step up their efforts to address those issues and ensure full participation of persons with disabilities in public and political life.

Ms. I. HEINDORF, Panellist, said that it was of utmost importance for democratic societies to ensure that persons with disabilities were able to participate in public and political life. Every year, the Zero Project issued a report on progress made in implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities worldwide based on replies to implementation questionnaires sent to countries. One of the indicators used was related to the right of persons with disabilities to receive assistance to vote from a person of their choosing, which was a crucial aspect of full and effective political participation. According to the Zero Project Report 2012, in seven out of 55 countries, that right did not exist and more than half of countries surveyed had responded that the right did exist but subject to conditions, meaning that the right was not being fully enjoyed. However, it should be noted that the above-mentioned aspect was only one element needed to ensure full political participation of persons with disabilities. The recommendations contained in the Call to Act needed to be implemented as soon as possible. At its 2012 Conference, the Zero Project had held a round table meeting with parliamentarians with disabilities to discuss the barriers faced by that group in its work, for example whether they received support from their party for their electoral campaigns, whether documentation was made available in Braille and simple language and whether sign language interpretation was provided, whether there was disability-friendly budgeting, and whether there was a parliamentary committee to discuss disability issues. The forthcoming Zero Project Report would focus almost entirely on those issues. It was clear that the challenges were multiple and it was important that action was taken to ensure that persons with disabilities could fully represent themselves.

Debate

Mr. M. TIRKEY (India) observed that guaranteeing the welfare of persons with disabilities was central to the achievement of universal human rights. Parliamentarians must use their legislative and monitoring functions to defend the rights of such people and facilitate their mainstreaming into society and recognition of their capabilities. The Indian Constitution guaranteed justice, liberty, equality and equal opportunities for all its citizens, including in relation to employment. Parliament has been actively engaged in holding the government accountable in those areas. He was confident that the activities of IPU Member Parliaments on the issue would contribute to the ongoing change in attitudes and to the development efforts of their countries.

Mr. F.H. NAEK (Pakistan) opined that persons with disabilities were often one of the most marginalized groups in society. It was vital that the needs of that group were taken into account in development-related discussions. Although his country had a number of education, training and rehabilitation activities, persons with disabilities in developing countries such as Pakistan continued to face a multitude of social, physical and political barriers, which hampered their integration into society. The IPU should call on parliaments to develop, in consultation with persons with disabilities, appropriate legislation to facilitate implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; provide adequate funding for related activities; establish reporting mechanisms for the Convention; take steps to facilitate the participation of persons with disabilities in the political system; and involve parents and communities in which persons with disabilities lived through community-based rehabilitation approaches.

Ms. H. AMRAN (Indonesia) stated that following ratification of the Convention, her country had taken steps to strengthen the national framework and legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and remove barriers to their participation in political and public life based on the principles of non-discrimination, equality and equal opportunity. Previous measures taken in that area had also been strengthened. Indonesia had legislation in place that stipulated that voters with disabilities should have access to support to enable them to vote, including the assistance of specific equipment or another person and fully-accessible polling stations. Other countries in the region had visited Indonesia in order to learn more about its approach. Parliaments could play an important role in the implementation of the Convention.

Mr. M.M. BOROUMANDI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had ratified the CRPD and, as a result, had introduced comprehensive national legislation to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The Iranian Parliament was actively monitoring its implementation. A draft bill on the candidature of blind persons in parliamentary elections was also currently under consideration. A parliamentary group on the rights of persons with disabilities had been established which, in close collaboration with the government and NGOs, consulted on and monitored implementation of legislation, programmes and policies to help persons with disabilities. Those programmes included making buildings and public places more accessible and disability-friendly; supporting the national parasport federation; and supporting the creation of a national union of persons with disabilities. Lastly, international sanctions imposed by some countries had led to a shortage of medicines and medical equipment in the Islamic Republic of Iran and he urged Members to take steps to facilitate the export of such products to his country.

The delegate from THAILAND said that as party to the CRPD, her country continued to develop measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and ensure that they had access to adequate services, such as the allocation of funds to welfare allowances and the introduction of a code of conduct for government agencies and the private sector. Moreover, social protection measures, such as the Physical Fitness Rehabilitation Fund and the establishment of community learning centres, had also been introduced. Although progress had been made, challenges remained, particularly relating to raising public awareness of disability-related issues and addressing the lack of access to public services.

The delegate from SAUDI ARABIA stated that her country, in addition to being party to the CRPD, was active in regional and international cooperation activities to promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Saudi Arabia had developed a set of toolkits to help ensure that persons with disabilities enjoyed full access to medical and education services and that their rights were fully enshrined in all legislation. Parliaments had an important supervisory role in the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and Saudi Arabia had a number of parliamentary committees in place to monitor the work of the government and hold them to account for any failures to fulfil their commitments and obligations. For example, ministers were regularly questioned about the activities undertaken within their departments to ensure that persons with disabilities were included and that sufficient funding was allocated to dedicated centres set up to help them. In addition, the Shura Council had recently called for a database of medical records of persons with disabilities to be developed so that it could be ensured that they had the opportunity to find appropriate employment. Every effort was also made to guarantee that women and men with disabilities received equal treatment.

Mr. G. SCHNEEMAN (South Africa) said that before 1994 very few people had access to wheelchair ramps. But in recent years in South Africa, progress had been made in addressing the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, both in practical and legislative terms. Measures introduced included disability grants for those that could not work, the

facilitation of disabled candidates participating in elections, and the setting of targets for employment of persons with disabilities in both government departments and the private sector. In addition, the Bill of Rights guaranteed the rights of all citizens. A handicap scholarship was granted to every person who could not get the job they wanted. The Vice-Chairperson of the Broadcasting Council was a visually impaired person.

Ms. J. LAY (Kenya) explained that following its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons in 2008, Kenya had drafted legislation on the rights of persons with disabilities, which was currently under review and had established the Council for Persons with Disabilities to oversee implementation of obligations under the Convention. The country's new Constitution, adopted in 2010, and the Employment Act of 2007, also included provisions to promote and protect the right of those persons and eliminate discrimination. In addition, within the parliamentary sphere, the Kenya Disability Parliamentary Caucus had been established to further raise awareness and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. Article 54 of the 2010 Constitution provided that a disabled person had the right to be treated with dignity and to be integrated into society. At least 5 per cent of executive boards of directors should be composed of persons with disabilities.

Ms. P. LOW (Singapore) said that it was important to have a hand up rather than a hand-out approach to help empower persons with disabilities. A truly inclusive society treasured and supported all sectors of society, regardless of age, gender and ability. It was important to help all citizens build on and make use of their specific skills; for example, although blind and visually-impaired people could not see, they had heightened senses of smell, taste and touch and would therefore likely be better than able-bodied people at certain jobs that required use of those senses. Moreover, wheelchair users could play an important audit role regarding accessibility of roads and buildings. Parliamentarians should endeavour to influence policies for an inclusive society; encourage the rise of social enterprises for a hand up approach; look, within their constituencies, for ways to improve the physical environment and facilitate universal access and raise awareness of the idea of a hand up approach among all constituents to encourage both self-help and mutual assistance. She highlighted a number of measures undertaken by Singapore, such as the establishment of special education schools, making public transport and buildings accessible to wheelchair users, and the creation of a dedicated agency to take care of person with disabilities from birth until the end of their lives.

Mr. L.A. MAÏZOUNBOU (Niger) observed that disabilities often led to discrimination, despite the efforts of international instruments. Niger had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and as a result, persons with disabilities enjoyed the right to health care, education, to participate in sport and to vote. He urged all countries to ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

Mr. G. TCHOCODO (Benin) said that although his country had legislation on persons with disabilities, it was rarely implemented and the needs of those persons were not taken into account, particularly with regard to education and employment. He urged the IPU to develop serious recommendations for national parliaments to facilitate awareness raising and the full application of laws related to persons with disabilities.

The delegate from the DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO said that the existence of poliomyelitis and the war in his country had contributed to high rates of disability among the population. He appealed to the international community to combat that disease. The country's legislation was currently under review by the parliament as part of the process to implement the Convention. Civil society had been extremely active in the country on the issue and there was no stigmatization of disability in society. Numerous measures had been undertaken to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, in some towns, there were places reserved in markets to enable persons with disabilities to trade their goods. The

Central Bank Governor was a disabled person. In addition, the importance of philanthropy could not be underestimated; for example the Governor of Katanga state had used his own salary to establish a support fund for persons with disabilities within his State.

Mr. P. MARTIN-LALANDE (France) welcomed the global efforts to change mentalities regarding persons with disabilities. In order to achieve that goal it would be important to look at how societies functioned. Information and communication technologies could play a crucial role in empowering persons with disabilities and more needed to be done to ensure equal employment opportunities. France had made significant progress on the issue of equality for persons with disabilities, for example through the adoption of the 2005 legislation enabling children with disabilities to attend mainstream schools if they wished. That legislation had overturned a previous law that stipulated the children with disabilities should attend a special school. However, it was important to note that more needed to be done in the country, particularly with regard to disabled access to public places.

The delegate from CHAD said that the situation of persons with disabilities in her country had improved, but much remained to be done. Many organizations and religious orders were active on disability-related issues but the situation was fragmented. The governments of African countries should be actively encouraged to raise awareness of and address issues related to disability in their country. One MP was a visually impaired person.

The representative from the UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION (UNISDR) said that it was imperative that the viewpoints and needs of persons with disabilities were taken into account in efforts to build disaster resilience. Evidence showed that persons with disabilities were more likely to die or be injured in a disaster than able-bodied persons and yet, those persons were rarely consulted about their needs. Given the threat to the world posed by climate change and the increasing frequency and strength of natural disasters, he urged parliamentarians to include the issue of disasters and risk reduction in discussions related to the needs of persons with disabilities.

The MODERATOR added that in his country, there were many measures in place to assist persons with disabilities, including procedures to evacuate such persons in the case of natural disasters. The tsunami that had hit Japan in 2011 had also affected the coast of Ecuador. Steps had been taken, through a programme called Manuela Espejo, to detect natural disasters through geolocation and to move all persons with disabilities from the affected area and away from the danger zone by helicopter. Ecuador would be happy to share its experiences on that approach.

Ms. V. LEE, Panellist, welcoming the commitment expressed by speakers, said that although many countries had positive provisions related to physical and sensory disabilities, many countries continued to have legislation that restricted the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities, including their right to vote. Language used in relation to mental disabilities was often derogatory and perpetuated discrimination. She reiterated her call for urgent action by all parliamentarians to ensure that international commitments were translated into legislative activities and that derogatory language was removed. Advances could not be made unless the right to political participation was fully upheld. To that end, she encouraged IPU Members to ensure that the recommendations and jurisprudence of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities were respected; advice could be sought from the disability focal point of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and collaboration with disabled persons' organizations was also vital. IDA could be a useful resource. Lastly, innovation was crucial for the successful implementation of the Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI, Panellist, welcoming the statements made, said that there were a number of activities that could help countries raise awareness of and address disability-related issues, including the sharing of experiences, knowledge and skills and collaboration with IDA and the IPU. In addition, at the current meeting, he was the only disabled member of parliament attending; more should be done to facilitate the attendance and inclusion of other representatives with disabilities in future.

Ms. I. HEINDORF, Panellist, welcomed the positive examples of measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities mentioned by a number of delegates, including those from Kenya, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa. She agreed wholeheartedly with the opinion put forward by the delegate of SINGAPORE regarding the need to focus on the abilities of persons with disabilities. A good example of such an approach was a programme in Germany in which blind women had been trained to carry out breast cancer screenings; those women had been able to detect changes to breasts that were 20 per cent smaller than those detected by doctors. Lastly, it was vital that persons with disabilities were able to represent themselves at the government level.

Mr. M. Traoré (Burkina Faso) resumed the Chair.

Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs to the Assembly

The CHAIR presented the draft Report of the Committee on United Nations Affairs and explained that it was not an official negotiated document, but rather a summary of the interventions made by panellists and delegates. It would serve to update the Assembly and would be circulated to the broader IPU membership and the United Nations system. He took it that the Committee wishes to approve the document.

It was so decided.

The CHAIR added that it had been decided by the Assembly that the Committee would become the fourth IPU Standing Committee, with a Bureau established to replace the current Advisory Group. The areas addressed by the United Nations were cross-cutting issues and therefore of interest to all IPU Members and he hoped that the next session would be as dynamic and participative as the current one.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

**Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world:
The contribution of parliaments**

Item 3(a) of the agenda

Panel discussion on the subject chosen for debate by the Standing Committee
on Peace and International Security during the 130th Assembly

Sitting of Tuesday, 8 October
(Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh), in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT welcomed all participants to the meeting and recalled the long engagement of the IPU on the subject of nuclear weapons. Following a recommendation from the 125th Assembly in Bern, the IPU, in cooperation with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Swiss Foreign Office and the World Future Council, had recently published a Handbook for Parliamentarians on Supporting Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation.

He introduced the two co-Rapporteurs who had been appointed at the 128th Assembly, Ms. Y. Ferrer Gómez (Cuba) and Mr. B. Calkins (Canada), and three expert panellists, Mr. M. Dengo (Costa Rica), Chair of the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations, Baroness Miller, Member of the House of Lords, United Kingdom Parliament, and Mr. A. Ware, Global Coordinator, PNND.

He drew attention to the information paper that had been made available by the Secretariat on the proposed amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU, including to the Rules of the Assembly, which would affect the working methods of the Standing Committees. He urged all Committee members to read that paper, which outlined the key changes.

A video provided by the delegation of Kazakhstan in support of the International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August), entitled 'Embrace! A World Free of Nuclear Weapons', was screened. The video outlined the history of the testing of nuclear weapons since 1945 and their devastating effects on the environment and human health and set out the arguments in favour of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and how it would be an important step towards the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Mr. M. DENGO, Panellist, recalled the discussions that had already been held during the present Assembly on the impact of natural disasters and urged parliamentarians to recognize how much worse the scale and effect of a nuclear explosion would be for the world. The IPU had long understood the importance of the issue of nuclear weapons; the Handbook for Parliamentarians that it had recently published on Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament was extremely didactic and valuable for parliamentarians and anybody who wished to read more about the history and complexities of those weapons and the action – or indeed inaction – that had been taken in that area. Meetings such as the present Assembly provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to recognize that they all faced similar challenges and could work together towards common goals. As Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament, he understood well the role that parliaments could play in bringing about a world free of nuclear weapons, not least because, whatever measures were adopted in the future, they would all have to be approved by parliaments. They also helped to create foreign policy and ensured that the necessary funds were available; when

they scrutinized budgets and the amounts that were allocated to armament, it was important for them to think about how the same funds could be used for development. Parliamentarians should make good use of their political power, seeking to change views in their countries on such important topics.

He informed the Committee that the results of the discussions of the Open-Ended Working Group had been very positive; the sessions had been valuable both from the political and technical points of view and all participants had expressed their opinions clearly. The Working Group had taken an "inventory" of all existing instruments related to nuclear disarmament and relevant multilateral negotiations. Civil society organizations had also provided valuable contributions to those sessions and the results of the work. The Working Group had produced a report which looked at inter alia: how to advance negotiations; elements to be included in the negotiations; the role of nuclear weapons within the framework of security in the 21st century; and the role of the international community, States and other players.

Baroness MILLER, Panellist, said that since the IPU Assembly had adopted in 2009 its resolution on "Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments", there had been many other good initiatives, including the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group; the conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, first held in Oslo earlier in 2013 and for which there would be a follow-up conference in Mexico in 2014; and the IPU Handbook, which would enable all parliamentarians to be more informed about the type of questions they should be asking governments. However, much of the progress had only been made by non-nuclear-weapon States; there had been much less progress from nuclear-weapon States. Indeed, no substantial progress had been made regarding obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), on those States giving up their weapons. It was time for the whole international community to address the dangers of the continued existence of nuclear arsenals around the world.

Many parliaments and sections of civil society did not view nuclear weapons as still being a great threat; complacency had set in after living with those weapons for so many decades and none of them being used. It was a dangerous attitude, as there was no way to guarantee that they would not be used in the future, whether by accident or design. The number of nuclear weapons may have reduced, but they were far more powerful now than in the past.

It was the duty of parliamentarians to do all they could to raise awareness of the consequence of even a "small-scale" nuclear explosion. At present in the United Kingdom there was an ongoing debate about the renewal of the Trident nuclear submarine system. She lamented that fact as, on one hand, the country had recently recognized the need to enforce international law and prohibit the use of chemical weapons but, on the other, maintained an opposing view on nuclear weapons. She was disappointed when the United Kingdom Government had chosen not to attend the conference in Oslo on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons but hoped that it would change its mind in time to attend the forthcoming meeting in Mexico.

The nuclear powers had a responsibility to fulfil their obligations under the NPT and it was important that they understood the views – and the anger – of other countries, which would be affected socially, economically, and environmentally by even a small-scale nuclear exchange. It would be a difficult road to a world free of nuclear weapons but it was the duty of parliamentarians to ensure that governments took part in negotiations.

Mr. A. WARE, Panellist, said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure peace and security in their constituencies, promote the common aspirations for peace, security, and a nuclear-weapon-free world, and work with local legislatures on relevant initiatives. The video shown to the Committee had made it clear that, despite the end of the Cold War and a

reduction in nuclear-weapons testing, the danger had not gone away. In fact, the risk of using nuclear weapons had possibly grown, given the increased risk of non-State actors obtaining those weapons or fissile material.

The doctrine of relying on nuclear weapons prevented the international community from developing cooperative security mechanisms and from being able to allocate any of the US\$ 100 billion spent on weapons of mass destruction each year to other issues such as financial, environmental, or health crises. Parliamentarians needed to play a key role in channelling the necessary resources – financial and otherwise – to resolving the issue and creating a nuclear-weapon-free world.

After years of slow progress at sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, owing to political differences and an inability to negotiate for disarmament, a new process had been established in the Open-Ended Working Group. Participants, from both nuclear- and non-nuclear-weapon States had been able to share their perspectives and proposals on how to take forward multilateral negotiations for achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. He firmly hoped that the mandate of the Working Group would be extended beyond its initial one year so that the Group could continue its positive work.

The main challenge in any negotiation was that a number of nuclear-weapon States and their allies still saw a role for nuclear weapons in the world. Until it was possible to move beyond that attitude, it would be difficult to instigate necessary measures such as ensuring a CTBT that all States would ratify, controlling fissile materials, and reducing the number of nuclear weapons ahead of their full elimination. Parliamentarians, however, had the ability to pave the way by voicing their ideas within the IPU and other forums.

He strongly encouraged discussions on establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Middle East and elsewhere and encouraged parliamentarians from NATO countries in particular to push for a global security framework that did not rely on nuclear weapons. He lauded the IPU Handbook, which had been produced in conjunction with PNND and contained many ideas and examples of action that all States could take.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ, co-Rapporteur, said that achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world was one of the highest priorities for humanity. The only way to ensure that such weapons were not used was to destroy them; it fell to parliaments to demand that their governments fulfilled their responsibilities to bring about complete and irreversible disarmament. Legislators in States with nuclear weapons needed to ensure that there were unequivocal guarantees in place that their countries would not use, or threaten to use, those weapons. Nuclear deterrence needed to be abandoned as a policy, as it did nothing but encourage the continued existence of nuclear weapons.

In the near half-century since the NPT had been signed, very few advances had been made; while it was true that there had been a reduction in the number of weapons in the world, those that still existed had been perfected and their destructive power was now greater than ever. The amount spent on those weapons each year was over US\$ 100 billion; parliaments needed to scrutinize national budgets and military spending, remaining mindful of how much could be achieved if that same amount was spent instead on development issues. Parliamentarians needed to call on the nuclear powers to meet their commitments under the NPT and to apply the measures set out in the action plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, particularly in the Middle East, was essential, as such zones contributed greatly to international peace and security. The right of States to research and develop peaceful uses of nuclear power, such as for energy, also needed to be recognized.

All countries should press for the beginning of negotiations on a universal and legally binding instrument on nuclear disarmament. There were still some States that opposed such a process but international peace and security would only be achieved if the production, procurement, testing, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons were prohibited by such an

instrument. A clear time frame for the elimination and destruction of nuclear weapons needed to be set internationally as soon as possible.

Mr. B. CALKINS, co-Rapporteur, said that his background paper was based on the underlying premise that, in the 21st century, the challenges of dealing with nuclear weapons were more political than technical; for that reason, he believed parliamentarians had a crucial part to play in achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The key challenges they all faced, however, were in the areas of non-proliferation and preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons; disarmament and ensuring that nuclear-weapon States reduced and eventually eliminated their stockpiles; and cooperation and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. All those challenges had been addressed in the NPT and the priority should now be to ensure that it and other existing international instruments were implemented effectively, while carefully balancing the different efforts aimed at non-proliferation and disarmament. Countries had differed in their views on which should be achieved most urgently, but he believed both were necessary.

Under the NPT there had been several positive outcomes, including that the number of States with nuclear weapons stood at no more than nine, much lower than had once been predicted, and that other States had fulfilled their commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons. Implementation of the NPT needed to be improved, however, as proliferation had still occurred and there were still some States that had not signed the Treaty and were therefore under no obligation not to develop those weapons. Those States should urgently be persuaded to sign the Treaty in order to guarantee universal security. Regarding disarmament, all nuclear-weapon States bore the responsibility for eliminating the estimated 17,000 weapons in existence and remained accountable for their action, or lack thereof, in that regard.

Other important international agreements included the CTBT, which could not enter into force until eight specific States had ratified it, and the proposed fissile material cut-off treaty, which would ban the production of the fissile material that provided nuclear weapons with their explosive power. As the Conference on Disarmament functioned on the basis of consensus, some States had been able to block crucial negotiations. The entire international community needed to redouble its efforts to ensure the success of both treaties.

Recent years had, however, given rise to renewed interest and momentum regarding non-proliferation and disarmament, with the creation of the United Nations Secretary-General's five-point proposal on disarmament, important speeches on the issue by the President of the United States, and the adoption of an action plan on disarmament at the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Parliamentarians needed to do all they could to help maintain that momentum. They should hold governments to account on compliance with the NPT and urge them to accept new commitments in favour of eliminating nuclear weapons.

He hoped that the present debate would provide valuable input for the resolution that would be drafted and which he hoped would lay the groundwork for a successful 2015 NPT Review Conference and the eventual achievement of the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Debate

Mr. G. LI (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)) said that he was encouraged to see parliamentarians creating awareness of and pushing for a nuclear-weapon-free world, especially as, in recent weeks, States Parties to the CTBT had underscored their commitment to its objectives. The Treaty had near universal membership and the number of ratifications had risen to 161. It represented an essential part of the legal and technical foundation of verifiable, transparent and irreversible nuclear disarmament and a firm barrier against the further development of those weapons. The prospect of the entry into force of the Treaty seemed more positive than it had for many years, as the United States had re-

engaged on an unprecedented level, constructive discussions had been held in China, and Israel had initiated discussions on the Treaty in its own parliament for the first time in over a decade.

Parliamentarians had a key role to play in keeping its entry into force high on the political agenda. For those whose countries already supported the Treaty, they needed to remain resolute in their determination to see the process to its end.

Mr. A. LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the current numbers of nuclear weapons globally had the capacity to destroy the planet several times over and, with increases in the past decade of sectarian and religious conflicts, there was an ever greater risk of their procurement and use by non-State actors. More worrying was that some States were increasing the risk further by providing terrorist or non-State groups with weapons – including weapons of mass destruction – and other resources, as had been seen recently in the Syrian Arab Republic.

More than 65 years had passed since nuclear weapons were first used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but the world was still witness to the nuclear powers modernizing their nuclear arsenals every year. For that reason, Article VI of the NPT, which described the necessary commitments of nuclear-weapon States, was crucial, but without real action and outcomes under that Article, there would remain an impasse in global efforts for non-proliferation and disarmament.

While Israel had never openly acknowledged it, there was very little doubt among the international community that the country was in possession of nuclear weapons. Iran strongly disagreed with the support that many countries gave to Israel, given its double standards when speaking out against chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and when arguing in favour of the sanctions that had been imposed on Iran. In regard of the latter, Iran had stated many times that nuclear weapons had no place in its defence policies and fatwas, or religious decrees, had been issued prohibiting weapons of mass destruction in the country.

He urged all parliamentarians to approve international laws on the prohibition of the production and stockpile of weapons of mass destruction and which would oblige all nuclear-weapon States to accept and adhere to the NPT. All nuclear weapons should be destroyed within a set time frame and under the supervision of the IAEA.

Mr. V. SENKO (Belarus) lamented that, despite global discussions on the issue of nuclear disarmament for over half a century, the problem was still far from being resolved. The number of nuclear States had remained roughly the same and the number of warheads had in recent times been reduced by several thousand, but many countries were not seeking the complete elimination of their nuclear weapons and some of the motivation for creating nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the Middle East, had been lost.

As the first State to voluntarily give up nuclear weapons without any preconditions, Belarus remained committed to disarmament and non-proliferation. He was concerned, however, that the guarantees of security provided to Belarus in the Budapest Memorandum following that action were now no longer recognized by some nuclear States.

It was essential that all countries recognized the right set out in the NPT for States to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination, or indeed double standards, and in accordance with their non-proliferation obligations. Belarus hoped that the resolution would emphasize that parliaments, governments and civil society should use every means possible to urge nuclear States to comply with their international commitments.

Mr. A. AL-TRAJI (Kuwait) emphasized that it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to give due consideration to the concepts of peace and security. Noting that over 180 countries had ratified the NPT, he added that implementation of the Treaty in the Middle East remained a challenge. There were many conflicts in the region and Israel's accumulation of nuclear weapons also represented a threat. Further, the Iranian position on nuclear

weapons was still not clear to many in the region. His country hoped that Israel would destroy its weapons and that a peaceful solution could be found to the Iranian situation, so that the Middle East could live peacefully and be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Kuwait had been among the first countries to sign the CTBT and called on others to do more to ensure the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. B. BOUTKHIL (Algeria) said that the issue of nuclear proliferation was of great interest given the many relevant resolutions adopted by international organizations. While exhorting all parliamentarians to ensure that the right of countries, particularly developing countries, to use nuclear energy in a peaceful manner be upheld, he called for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, which posed a constant threat. Algeria hoped for an internationally binding agreement on the elimination of those weapons, not least because it had suffered greatly from the testing of nuclear weapons in its territory in the 1960s. Given the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, Algeria also called for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

There had been more than sufficient time since the signing of the NPT in 1968 for the nuclear powers to eliminate their weapons and yet there was still no certainty over when that would be achieved. Renewed political will was needed, with the rest of the world pressing those nuclear States to respect international agreements.

Mr. S.Y. NAIK (India) underscored that the risk of nuclear proliferation was a grave threat to all civilization, all the more so if nuclear weapons fell into the hands of non-State actors or terrorist groups. The international community needed to acknowledge that, almost five decades after the NPT was signed, it was still no closer to launching negotiations for achieving the complete elimination of those weapons. India believed that the goal of disarmament could be achieved through a clear, stepwise process that was underwritten by international commitment and a non-discriminatory multilateral framework. India was the only nuclear-weapon State that was ready to engage in such negotiations; the country had tabled working papers on disarmament at the United Nations General Assembly and also supported proposals for a convention on the elimination of nuclear weapons.

India had a strong record in non-proliferation and had put in place a stringent export control system. The country also espoused the policy of "no first use". India believed that parliaments had a key role to play in keeping disarmament high on the political agenda, through ensuring the ratification of relevant international instruments and enacting appropriate national legislation.

Mr. E. AOUN (Lebanon) expressed grave concern over the growing threat of the existence of nuclear weapons and the potential harmful consequences on health, development and the environment. There was no justification for their continued existence and all support for their use should be condemned.

As guardians of democracy, parliamentarians and the IPU should ensure that necessary measures were implemented, such as respect for the principles contained in relevant international instruments and in the UN Charter. There also needed to be an effective international legal framework that could administer justice when those principles were violated.

Lebanon was concerned not only by nuclear weapons, but by other weapons of mass destruction, such as chemical weapons. Parliamentarians needed to speak out against the use of all such weapons and to impose sanctions where necessary. The country welcomed all efforts by the United Nations and other organizations to encourage governments to comply with international instruments on the elimination of nuclear and other weapons. The international community had a responsibility to work for peace and security and to preserve the planet for future generations.

Mr. A. NEOFYTOU (Cyprus) said the greatest challenge to international peace and security remained the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and every State should prioritize preventing their spread and development. Parliamentarians needed to apply constant pressure on their governments to change national approaches to proliferation and press them to establish comprehensive strategies in accordance with international treaties and to monitor results. The IPU should continue to promote dialogue on the subject, with a view to ensuring a better future for all people in a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mr. A. ALNUAIMI (United Arab Emirates) welcomed the advances that countries had made in reducing their nuclear arsenals but remained concerned by the potential consequences on global peace and security, which were exacerbated by some countries still refusing to either sign the NPT or to allow access by the IAEA. The greatest threat would come if any nuclear weapons fell into the hands of terrorist groups.

His country believed it was essential for the Middle East to become a nuclear-weapon-free zone and urged the whole international community to help resolve the Israeli nuclear weapon situation, which provided an incentive to others in the region to develop such weapons. He urged the Israeli Parliament to ratify the NPT.

Mr. L. KAZABU (Zambia) said that it was well within the power of parliaments to advance the cause of nuclear weapon non-proliferation and disarmament. They should seek to ratify swiftly all relevant international treaties and protocols and urge governments to engage constructively in United Nations discussions and negotiations on nuclear issues. Parliaments also needed to use their oversight role to scrutinize governments' implementation of and adherence to those treaties and should seek to raise public awareness of the threats posed by nuclear weapons.

Mr. A. SHAHID (Bangladesh) reported that his country had always advocated for complete nuclear disarmament, especially as it was located in close proximity to three nuclear powers and had good reason to worry about the effects of nuclear weapons. Such weapons could not guarantee security and peace and Bangladesh urged nuclear States to provide security assurances to non-nuclear States.

It was time for the international community to choose either to continue living with the danger of nuclear weapons, which were expensive to maintain, or to give them up and spend the same amount on development. Parliaments needed to devise ways to bring the nuclear powers to the table to negotiate.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that the concerns of the international community continued to grow in the face of the risks and humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. The IPU needed to make its voice heard in favour of nuclear disarmament and a resolution must be drafted that ensured the three pillars of the NPT were respected.

Governments needed to work towards the disarmament of existing weapons, the halting of all nuclear testing, and the development of new weapons. The Latin American and Caribbean region was a nuclear-weapon-free zone and Cuba hoped that a similar zone would soon be established in the Middle East.

Parliamentarians needed to remember the critical link between peace and development and thus push for the billions of dollars that were currently spent on nuclear weapons to be allocated instead to ending poverty and hunger and promoting development globally.

Mr. B.-W. CHANG (Republic of Korea) stated that in order to achieve non-proliferation and disarmament, parliamentarians needed to ensure that all States Parties to the NPT enhanced their efforts to comply with it through sharing information and expertise with each other. All countries that had not yet signed the Treaty should urgently seek to do so and to halt any development of nuclear weapons.

The situation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was of particular concern, as that country had already acceded to the Treaty once, but had later withdrawn and conducted nuclear testing. The Republic of Korea was making considerable efforts to resolve the situation through peaceful means, especially as the threat of nuclear weapon use by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea affected not just that region but the whole world.

As shown by the 64-page action plan adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, international momentum on non-proliferation and disarmament was building. Governments and NGOs had a crucial role to play, while the IPU should scale up its efforts to make parliaments more visible and engaged in that endeavour, including through monitoring latest developments on countries' accession to relevant international treaties and promoting further discussions on the issue.

Mr. G. SCHNEEMAN (South Africa) said that the effects of nuclear weapon detonation were not constrained by national borders and all countries should be concerned by its catastrophic humanitarian, socio-economic, and environmental consequences. It was in the interests of all that nuclear weapons were not used under any circumstance. The only way to guarantee that, however, was through their complete elimination. He hoped that South Africa's disarmament of its nuclear arsenal served as an example and challenge to others.

It was the shared responsibility of all countries to ensure the disarmament of nuclear weapons through fulfilling the objectives of the NPT and parliamentarians could play a key role through enacting relevant legislation and establishing national institutions to regulate nuclear material. They could also encourage the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, such as that in Africa. It was the duty of all to continue raising awareness of the consequence of the use of nuclear weapons and to work for the benefit of future generations by ridding the world of that threat.

He said that the recently published IPU Handbook was a beneficial tool, which he hoped all parliamentarians would use as they advanced the cause of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Mr. A. NAGATSUMA (Japan) welcomed the chance to join with other parliamentarians who shared the dream of eliminating nuclear weapons. Every year for many years, Japan had submitted draft resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly on disarmament in order to highlight the need for abolishing nuclear weapons; all such resolutions had been approved.

Japan urged all nuclear States that had not yet ratified the CTBT to do so. Furthermore, all non-signatories to the Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on enhancing nuclear non-proliferation systems should seek to sign it. In coordination with nine other non-nuclear countries, Japan had established a non-proliferation and disarmament initiative aimed at understanding the provisions of the NPT.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the international community could never forget what happened when nuclear weapons were used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Everybody understood the risks associated with the manufacturing and proliferation of those weapons and it was the duty of parliamentarians to fulfil the hopes of humanity for a world free of nuclear weapons. To do so, they should call on all governments to stop producing and stockpiling those weapons, to sign the NPT, and to allow supervision and inspection by the IAEA. He stressed that no country should adopt any policy of double standards when it came to nuclear weapons and that no country in the Middle East should be able to stockpile nuclear warheads but refuse to sign the NPT.

Ms. F.Z. NADERI (Afghanistan) said that it was only with collective international efforts that the challenges relating to nuclear weapons would be overcome. The existence of nuclear weapons was a danger to all humanity but it had been a long time since significant action had been taken to prohibit or eliminate those weapons and their testing. Afghanistan understood

well what it meant to be a victim of war and earnestly sought the elimination of weapons of any kind that killed innocent people. Nuclear States should not be considered as "powers" in the world but as "threats". If terrorist groups managed to get their hands on nuclear weapons, the whole world would be at risk.

Mr. T. BARAMO TESSEMA (Ethiopia) underscored that unless there was genuine commitment from nuclear States to neutralize their nuclear arsenals, all people would live at risk indefinitely of the use of nuclear weapons and their devastating consequences. The IPU should engage with the United Nations, the IAEA and other relevant partners to maintain political momentum and achieve a global commitment to non-proliferation and disarmament. The IPU should also press for moving beyond the impasse in disarmament negotiations. All countries needed to be resolute in improving multilateral cooperation within those negotiations. Ethiopia actively collaborated with the IAEA on the peaceful and safe use of nuclear technologies and was committed to strengthening nuclear safety infrastructure to ensure the safe use of equipment.

Mr. H. LUCKS (Namibia) said that, as a member of the IAEA, Namibia strongly condemned the use of nuclear weapons and had consistently advocated the principles enshrined in the NPT. It had also fulfilled its own obligations under the 2009 IPU resolution on "Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments".

Namibia was the fifth largest producer of uranium globally but, while uranium mining was essential to development of the national economy, Namibia sought to ensure that the uranium oxide it exported was used only for peaceful purposes and not for nuclear weapons. The country regularly submitted information to the IAEA on those exports. Namibia had ratified the CTBT and concluded a Facility Agreement with the CTBTO authorizing the latter to conduct work on its international monitoring stations in Namibia to provide data on pressure variations in the atmosphere.

Ms. M. VAN EETVELDE (Belgium) said that it was evident that the world would be a better place without nuclear weapons, which had been a serious concern for over half a century. The nuclear threat associated with the Cold War had come and gone, but new threats had taken its place; some countries still refused to sign the NPT and sought to procure or develop weapons of mass destruction, while the threat of non-State actors or terrorist groups acquiring such weapons had become a grave concern.

Nevertheless, she continued to believe that it was possible to have a world without nuclear weapons. It would be a gradual process, in which she hoped parliamentarians would play a key role and in which careful negotiation among all international partners would be essential to disarmament.

Mr. T. HENARE (New Zealand) reported that, 25 years ago, his country's parliament had passed the first legislation of any country that outlawed nuclear weapons and created a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Despite others saying that New Zealand would lose international friends and trade, time had proven that that was not the case. New Zealand's example also proved that there were no reasons or excuses for having weapons of mass destruction. He urged all parliamentarians to return home and press for the introduction of similar legislation in their own countries.

Mr. T. YAHYA (Indonesia) said that the elimination of all nuclear arsenals and the fulfilment of the provisions of the NPT were essential to achieving a world free of the threat of nuclear weapons. Indonesia had ratified both that Treaty and the CTBT and urged all countries that had not yet signed them to do so. All nuclear States should also seek to reduce their stockpiles and ratify regional agreements to create more nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Mr. ZHOU GUANGQUAN (China) underscored that those countries with the greatest nuclear arsenals needed to prioritize the redoubling of their efforts to reduce the number of weapons that they held, as that would create conditions favourable to the full elimination of such weapons. China saw nuclear-free zones as an important step towards global elimination and called on all States that had not yet signed the CTBT to do so as soon as possible. The country had encouraged the elimination of nuclear weapons for many years and respected its commitment to neither participate in any arms race nor be the first to use such weapons, whatever the circumstances.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) expressed great concern that international law did not at present prohibit States from obtaining nuclear weapons or oblige them to destroy their arsenals. Bahrain had enacted several laws prohibiting the production and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. The country called for all States to ratify the relevant conventions and to enable the better inspection of nuclear facilities, especially as, at present, some countries refused inspection of their nuclear reactors. Bahrain was greatly in favour of making the Persian Gulf region a nuclear-weapon-free zone and guaranteeing States the right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, such as energy.

Mr. K. AL SADI (Oman) said that nuclear weapons posed a real threat and his country was making every possible effort to reach the objective of not only a nuclear-weapon-free region but also a nuclear-weapon-free world. Both the executive and legislative branches within the country were pushing for the elimination of those weapons and a ban on their testing.

Mr. R. KHOSHNAW (Iraq) said that his country had been a victim of weapons of mass destruction in the past, including through losing much of its budget and resources to armament. As a result, Iraq had made a commitment to never again fall victim to such weapons. Its Constitution stated that Iraq would never seek to build nuclear military capabilities and would work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.

All parliaments could play an important role in bringing that objective to bear, through ensuring that national resources were not allocated to developing weapons of mass destruction. They should also press governments to sign and ratify relevant international conventions aimed at nuclear disarmament and preventing nuclear tests. Iraq understood well the catastrophic consequences of weapons of mass destruction and urged all parliaments to curb any ambitions for armament on the part of their governments.

Mr. N. SABILYANOV (Kazakhstan) said that, after taking the decision over 20 years ago to close one of the biggest nuclear test sites and to abandon the world's fourth largest nuclear weapons arsenal, Kazakhstan remained an active supporter of the disarmament process. The country had, with others in the Central Asia region, signed a treaty proclaiming the region a nuclear-weapon-free zone and Kazakhstan had recently held an international conference on moving from the prohibition of nuclear testing to a nuclear-weapon-free world. One outcome of that conference was an appeal to the international community to demonstrate strong political will and combine efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and military-oriented nuclear materials. Kazakhstan would soon be hosting another conference, on nuclear security in the modern world, during which participants would be discussing practical measures that parliamentarians could take in favour of disarmament and non-proliferation.

He drew attention to both the work of PNND, which was essential in bringing parliamentarians together to develop joint strategic plans for nuclear disarmament, and to the ATOM (Abolish Testing, Our Mission) Project, which aimed to provide information on the threats and consequences of nuclear tests.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) welcomed the many achievable suggestions for action that had been made by other speakers and expressed appreciation for the IPU Handbook on

Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, which outlined both the vision and the path towards realizing it. She added that the world had run out of patience with the nuclear powers and that it was time for them to give up their nuclear weapons. All parliamentarians from those countries should hold their governments accountable and help to make that happen.

There was at present an historic window of opportunity to establish the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world and it was imperative that the opportunity be seized before any non-State actors managed to produce or acquire nuclear weapons or such weapons were used by accident, miscalculation or design. Parliamentarians had a vital role to play by adopting resolutions or calling on governments to actively support initiatives for the elimination of nuclear weapons. They should also draw attention to new diplomatic opportunities, such as the Open-Ended Working Group and support disarmament education within countries to ensure that societies understood the risks of using nuclear weapons and the benefits of their elimination. Parliamentarians worldwide should work together through networks such as PNND and encourage the creation of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones. Whether from nuclear-weapon States, their allies, or non-nuclear weapon States, they could all take action in favour of what the United Nations Secretary-General had called the "global good" of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Ms. L.A. ROJAS (Mexico) said that the current processes for nuclear disarmament under the United Nations had produced insufficient results, as nothing could happen without consensus being reached. If the majority wanted to see progress, alternative routes needed to be found. She drew attention to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which had been agreed in parallel to United Nations processes and which could serve as an example to those seeking action with regard to nuclear weapons.

Mexico strongly believed that nuclear weapons should no longer be allowed to exist. As long as they did, even if they were not being used, they posed a great danger to the world. An international agreement was needed that went beyond non-proliferation and sought the definitive elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. D. DIAS XIMENES (Timor-Leste) stressed that it was essential to reach consensus on eliminating all weapons that were a threat to innocent people's lives. To do so, all parliamentarians needed to take stock of why so many weapons existed and then work together in peaceful negotiations to resolve the problems that they caused.

Mr. H. NAPOLEÃO (Brazil) reported that his country was categorically against the existence and testing of nuclear weapons and sought their elimination. Brazil used nuclear power for peaceful purposes only and always allowed supervision by the IAEA.

Mr. M. DENGGO, Panellist, welcomed the discussions, which had shown there was clear affinity of feeling and ideas among parliamentarians. As legislators and representatives of the people, they had a unique advantage and he urged them to raise awareness of the afternoon's discussions and the search for consensus on the issue of nuclear weapons within their own parliaments and communities.

Baroness MILLER, Panellist, said that the message she had taken from the meeting was that if everybody wanted something strongly enough, and if everybody worked together, it could be achieved. She noted the references to the duty that they all had to future generations to ensure that they did not have to face the threat of nuclear weapons and recalled in particular the calls to shift spending away from weaponry and instead to global development needs.

Mr. A. WARE, Panellist, said that he had been inspired by many of the comments made; there was a collective dream of a nuclear-weapon-free world and, through working

together, parliamentarians could press their governments towards realizing it. Some countries, such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, New Zealand and South Africa, had already taken decisive and inspiring measures to achieve elimination at the national level. It was essential to engage with nuclear weapon States and he welcomed the comments made in particular by China.

He looked forward to the conference to be held in Mexico in February 2014 on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and also hoped that parliamentarians would encourage their governments to support the renewal of the mandate of the Open-Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ, co-Rapporteur, said it had been extremely valuable to hear the many statements made, which would be used to inform the resolution that would be drafted. In particular, she recalled the many comments on the urgent need for parliamentarians to fulfil their vital role in ensuring the elimination of nuclear weapons. Many who had spoken had expressed their desire to safeguard humanity and the planet and to avoid its destruction from the use of those weapons. She looked forward to receiving written proposals from delegates ahead of the drafting of the resolution.

Mr. B. CALKINS, co-Rapporteur, welcomed the many statements made, especially those by the delegates of Belarus, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, and South Africa, who had described the positive effects of, and opportunities created by, the unilateral action that each of their countries had taken, in spite of the expected negative impacts of which others had warned. However, regarding the calls for a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, he was a little concerned by the repeated references to urging one State in particular in the region to become nuclear-weapon-free. It was essential that all countries in the region, regardless of whether they were nuclear States, sought the same objective if such a zone was to be created.

Free and unhindered access by the IAEA to countries was essential towards building confidence globally and would be a key step towards disarmament. He hoped to hear further ideas on what parliaments could do to ensure that their national legislative framework allowed such access.

The PRESIDENT thanked the co-Rapporteurs, panellists and delegates for sharing their ideas on such an important topic and expressed his hope that, together, they would soon achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.

Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints

Item 3(b) of the Agenda

Panel discussion on the subject item chosen for debate by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Sitting of Monday, 7 October

(Afternoon)

The panel discussion was opened at 2.40 p.m., with Mr. R. León (Chile), President of the Standing Committee.

The PRESIDENT, introducing the panel discussion, said that the aim of the exercise was to elicit views from participants for input into the report and draft resolution to be prepared on the subject chosen by the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for consideration at the 130th Assembly: Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints. He drew attention to the background paper, contained in document A/129/3(b)-R.1, which had been prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, whom he invited as lead speakers to set the scene for an interactive discussion on the subject.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), co-Rapporteur, emphasizing the non-prescriptive nature of the background paper, said that the task of combining the two powerful stand-alone themes encompassed in the chosen subject item had posed a considerable challenge. Of integral importance to the debate were the increasing impact and risk of disaster, the growth and concentration of populations, and the approach employed in addressing those issues from a sustainable development perspective, particularly given the alarming statistics showing that disaster losses now exceeded growth. The IPU was the ideal forum for promoting proactive parliamentary engagement in efforts to build resilient communities in order to reduce disaster impact, including through smart investment of scarce resources, on a risk-analysis basis, with a view to saving in the long term. The purpose of sustainable development would be defeated in the absence of such advance planning to protect vulnerable populations from the high-frequency high-impact disasters that were becoming the norm.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium), co-Rapporteur, agreeing on the importance of the parliamentary role in building disaster resilience, added that food security and self-sufficiency were affected by demographics and that climate change was also a vital consideration in the sustainable development context, as was the issue of maternal and child health in the light of its impact on population dynamics. Indeed, family planning in both the collective and individual interest had long been identified as a key element of sustainable development. Risk-resilient development was a topical theme on the international agenda and he looked forward to hearing views and incorporating them into the final report and draft resolution to be prepared on the subject. The objective was to develop an action plan for taking that agenda forward, most notably in the parliamentary setting, as it was through a political approach to building disaster resilience that solutions would best be found.

The PRESIDENT thanked the two co-Rapporteurs for their contributions and introduced the two panellists, inviting them to share their perspectives on the subject.

Ms. M. WAHLSTRÖM (United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction), Panellist, recalling that the theme "invest today for a safer tomorrow" had been launched some four years earlier in order to promote concrete actions for disaster reduction, said that progress had been hampered by the lack of a holistic approach, which could now be pursued through the opportunity provided by the post-2015 development agenda. Parliamentarians certainly had a crucial role to play in disaster risk

reduction, a key factor in which was the location of populations. Where and how they were located were often greater causes of disaster-related losses than disasters themselves. Indeed, as already mentioned, the statistics for those losses were not encouraging. In some countries, the introduction of disaster-reduction measures in various sectors had already proven its worth. The burgeoning urban populations across the globe justified the strength of the economic argument for the introduction of such measures, but social, moral and political arguments also obtained.

Outlining the factors and risks specific to different continents and citing the many millions annually affected by disasters and the billions incurred in disaster-related costs, which were heavily under-estimated, she remarked on the critical need for a sustainable development model that secured well-being while at the same time recognizing and planning for risk. In mapping out a more resilient future, parliamentarians should therefore seek to integrate into their national development plans such matters as the development of financial and other instruments, risk assessment, early warning systems, preparedness, land use, urban planning, and the setting of standards and principles.

Ms. M. TEMMERMANN (Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization), Panellist, illustrating her presentation with slides, recalled that the international community had, over two decades earlier, identified as critical to sustainable development the establishment of sustainable production and consumption patterns and measures to address population dynamics. More recently identified as similarly critical were reproductive and sexual health and the promotion and protection of related human rights, including access to family planning services. Over the past 50 years, the increasing human demand for resources had more rapidly and extensively affected ecosystems than ever before. Taking into account the projected increase of the world population to 9.6 billion and more by 2050, the new Family Planning 2020 initiative aimed to halve to 120 million the number of women seeking to delay or avoid pregnancy with a view to drastically reducing unintended pregnancies, early infant deaths and pregnancy- and child-related deaths. Countries such as Kenya were taking the lead in slowing population growth through family planning programmes, which also achieved wider gains, including reductions in gender-based violence, abortion and poverty, in addition to women's overall empowerment and the promotion of more sustainable development pathways. Contraceptives were moreover cost-effective and delivered substantial cost savings in health care. Meriting further exploration, however, was the absence of any linear equation between a decrease in population growth and the ecological footprint.

Parliamentarians could play a crucial role in influencing population growth through policy-making; maintaining current per capita spending on health and education; reinforcing national commitments to gender equality and protection of women's rights; and ensuring the capacity of health systems to provide information and services relating to women's sexual and reproductive health.

Mr. F. Bustamante (Ecuador), substitute Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, took the Chair as Moderator.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their presentations and invited comments and questions from the floor.

Mr. J. AL-OMAR (Kuwait) said that sustainable development programmes must be based on relevant data and the allocation of resources for implementation must be within a set time frame. Planning for improvements in all spheres of life must be people-centred and also include environmental protection measures, which were an individual and collective responsibility and must aim to strike a balance between environment and development with a primary view to achieving the environmental security needed to guarantee the universal right

to a decent and healthy life. Population growth was a two-edged sword, promising either to stimulate national income through increased demand for goods and services or to impede economic growth by exhausting financial and natural resources. Demographics thus had a significant impact on development and compounded the need for sound planning to ensure environmental and socio-economic stability. Realistic and flexible goals must then be set for the expected outputs and desired outcomes in order to promote the implementation of a more effective policy for meeting the challenge of sustainability.

Ms. M. DE BOER (Netherlands), noting that the interesting linkage between population and disaster risk brought a new perspective to the debate on reproductive rights, asked about the pros and cons of ensuring that those rights were instrumental to such goals as risk resilience.

Ms. S. BONEVA (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) reported that her country, inspired by the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), was actively building disaster risk reduction capacities and promoting the risk reduction agenda at all levels, including by contributing substantially to regional and international efforts for constructing a safer world and achieving risk-resilient development. Globally appreciated and recognized, the national risk reduction model was founded on a holistic approach incorporating the resources and capacities available at all administrative levels and bringing together all sectors of society. Striking results had already been accomplished in reducing vulnerability to the natural hazards from which the country was most at risk, namely earthquakes, floods and forest fires. It shared a worrying downward population trend with other countries, however, in the light of its low birth rate and ageing profile, which portended grave socio-economic and other consequences. Population growth measures being implemented as part of a wider demographic strategy included financial incentives and education subsidies for larger families.

Mr. G. VARNAVA (Cyprus) said that the importance of sustainable development for island countries such as Cyprus was inestimable, especially given the ability of natural disasters to instantly destroy development gains. Disaster reduction saved lives and secured economic benefits that were also measurable in terms of family planning, improved health conditions, social cohesion and poverty alleviation. Natural hazards were not isolated incidents to be addressed through humanitarian aid or relief response alone and the new focus was therefore on dealing with the multidimensional aspects of disaster risk from the development perspective, with international commitments made to approach the issue in relation to its impact on people and development and more precisely to population growth and family planning. The HFA provided vital guidance for international cooperation in building disaster risk reduction and resilience, taking into account sustainable development, the link with which had been recognized as crucial by stakeholders. In progressing to action, the first priority was to incorporate disaster risk reduction and resilience into development policies and plans in all sectors and to ensure that they were at the core of the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 disaster risk reduction framework. Political will and determination were essential to achieving those goals.

Mr. T. FUKUYAMA (Japan) expressed appreciation for the tremendous international support offered to his country in the wake of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident it had suffered in 2011, which had caused thousands of deaths and untold destruction, in addition to reputational damage fuelled by rumour. The difficult struggle to decommission the reactors in the affected nuclear power station persisted and new problems were constantly emerging, such as water contamination and the delivery of health monitoring and support for the area's residents. Japan would continue to benefit from the wisdom and technology of the international community as it faced those challenges. The lesson learned, however, was that disaster risk reduction plans for individual events were inadequate to address the multiple

issues triggered by such a complex emergency. It was therefore vital to devise countermeasures for every imaginable situation by prioritizing effective disaster risk reduction and securing the requisite investment, including for capacity-building in disaster-prone developing countries. Special provision must also be made for the vulnerable groups in society. International cooperation on action to address climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions must likewise be promoted, with parliamentarians leading the discussion in their home countries.

Mr. L. RAMATLAKANE (South Africa) said that vulnerable groups in developing countries invariably bore the brunt of the adverse consequences of natural disasters, which were steadily rising. Economic recovery was slow in disaster-affected areas, with inhabitants experiencing a corresponding decline in their quality of life. Coming as it did before the 2015 deadline for attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the present discussion was timely, especially given the uneven response to the link between disaster risk reduction and population dynamics recognized at various international gatherings over the past 20 years. The Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction was designed to mobilize political commitment, improve disaster risk identification and assessment, enhance knowledge management, increase public awareness, improve governance and integrate disaster risk reduction into emergency response management. South Africa had its own well-developed disaster management policy and legislation for the integration and coordination of disaster preparedness, rapid response and post-disaster recovery. Vulnerability to disaster and the magnitude of disaster impacts were conditioned by the size of population activities and growth and by lack of economic progress, which a new national development plan had been designed to address. Additional support must be mobilized for research into key disaster risk reduction issues, taking into account the factors highlighted.

Mr. S.N. QAMAR (Pakistan) remarked that the dissemination of relevant information, such as satellite weather forecasts, to populations in disaster-prone areas could help to save lives and attenuate other impacts in the event of natural disaster. Legislation should be enacted to ensure that communities benefited from available data and knowledge.

The MODERATOR invited the lead speakers and panellists to react to the comments made.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY, co-Rapporteur, agreed that the dissemination of accurate disaster-related information was an important measure; early warning systems had already proved their worth in his own flood-prone country. Transboundary cooperation was similarly important, as was the interplay between science, policy and action for driving the required changes. The opportunity provided by the review of key components of the development architecture in 2015 must also be seized to ensure that disaster risk resilience featured prominently in the post-2015 agenda, bearing in mind that a single disaster could erase 10 years of development progress. The enactment of relevant legislation was also an absolute must and model legislation drawing on best practices was therefore likely to be included for guidance as part of the draft resolution to be developed for consideration by the Standing Committee. The IPU's Advocacy Kit for Parliamentarians on the theme of disaster risk reduction was another useful tool. As to reproductive rights, they were undoubtedly important but care must be taken to maintain focus on the central issue of disaster risk resilience and the extent to which population and demographics played a role therein. Lastly, a vital point had been raised about the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; failure to address that issue would be tantamount to treating the symptoms of the disease and not the cause, bearing in mind that the minimization of risks had limits.

Ms. M. WAHLSTRÖM, Panellist, concurred that access to disaster-related information was critical. Equally critical, however, was the need to train populations in how to respond to such information, the presentation of which must be clear enough to prompt that response. She likewise concurred that reproductive rights were not the issue insofar as it was the link between population dynamics and disaster risk that would essentially determine the appropriate risk management systems. Furthermore, the demographic trend was increasingly downward on account of the high proportion of countries with ageing populations. Concerning disaster-related legislation, it tended to concentrate on response rather than on prevention and reduction. A more integrated and inclusive legislative approach should therefore be explored.

Ms. M. TEMMERMANN, Panellist, joined in emphasizing the importance of the new global infrastructure to be built under the post-2015 architecture with a view to achieving new social and sustainable development goals. While the reproductive rights issue was part of a different work stream, efforts must nonetheless be made to identify and bring in links with added value.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, co-Rapporteur, referring to the question of reproductive rights in the context of population growth, said that an individual's freedom to choose pregnancy, without constraint, was fundamental. Access to family planning services must therefore be increased in order to offer that unconstrained choice. Socio-economic measures must also be developed in tandem with those services to ensure that women and children were not left behind in the drive for sustainable development and the attendant slowdown in population growth. Demographic problems clearly varied as a function of such factors as the age pyramid, population density, adequacy of natural resources and exposure to natural disaster risk, and population policies were formulated accordingly. Steps must be taken, however, to build strategies for risk resilience and disaster avoidance into those policies. In short, parliaments must include all such issues on their agenda with a view to exerting a robust influence on decision-makers and achieving positive outcomes.

Mr. LI YANG (China) remarked that sustainable development demanded a balance between economic progress and population, resources and environmental protection in the interests of increased production, improved living standards and a sound ecological environment. China was committed to concrete action for addressing the root causes of such problems as growing resource constraints, severe environmental pollution and deteriorating ecosystems in order to reverse the downward trend, create a healthy environment and contribute to global ecological security, while at the same time working to assist other developing countries in their quest for sustainable development. As a responsible country with a large population, it had taken effective measures to implement both the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and the MDGs, which had in turn boosted socio-economic development, improved public health and helped to stabilize the global population. Sustainable development must also be energetically pursued at the international level, with a focus on developing-country access to capital and technology. China was thus intent on actively engaging in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+ 20) in an open and results-oriented manner in order to promote global environmental protection and sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

Mr. V. SENKO (Belarus) said that the role of parliaments in addressing the issue of sustainable consumption and production patterns and population dynamics could not be overestimated. The HFA had proved to be an efficient vehicle for addressing the challenges of disaster risk reduction and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was a vital and practical tool for countries, including Belarus, which now had a national body cooperating

actively with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Notwithstanding the success and efficacy of multilateral efforts, significant room for the improvement of hazard responses remained. He therefore called on parliamentarians to ensure that risk reduction was a priority goal at both the national and global levels. The next essential step would be to endorse the HFA2 in 2015. The United Nations role in addressing sustainable development issues and developing risk resilience should be significantly enhanced. His suggestion was that the impact of such important factors as food production, access to energy resources and world population growth should be addressed in the agenda of the Global Partnership for Development.

Mr. K. SITTHEAMORN (Thailand) reported that the issue of population dynamics in Thailand was less severe and more predictable than elsewhere, whereas production and consumption patterns were frequently disrupted by natural disasters. The hard lesson learned from the major tsunami and flood disasters of the past decade was that politicians were too busy protecting their constituencies to become involved in disaster management, creating more problems than they solved. In building its response capacities, Thailand had established local and national mechanisms, amended existing legislation, enacted new legislation and installed monitoring and early-warning systems. Legislation relating to disaster prevention still required improvement, however, and the implementation of major projects was hampered by such factors as shifting weather patterns and unreliable data. Measures to minimize risk to the production supply chain had been established, as had regional frameworks for disaster management and emergency response, which included transboundary issues and the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance. Planning difficulties posed by the unpredictability of shifting weather patterns were among the remaining challenges. Another significant problem was that the popular vote was frequently attracted by quick-fix solutions that tended to be costly and unsustainable, which was a barrier to politicians campaigning to win in elections on the strength of more sustainable policies.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) related that the disasters suffered by Palestine were man-made but had the same grave impact as natural disasters. The Zionist occupation of Palestinian territories since 1948 was tantamount to a never-ending earthquake that caused homelessness, destroyed land, wrecked livelihoods and led to poverty. The constant influx of settlers with no connection to Palestine or the Mediterranean region disrupted security and depleted Palestinian natural resources, particularly water, which was moreover contaminated, together with the soil, by chemical and other hazardous wastes produced by Israel. Measures could be taken to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters and restore normality, whereas there was no end in sight to the man-made disaster in Palestine, given the persistent failure to find and implement a peaceful solution. Freedom of trade and movement was severely curtailed as a result of the embargo, road closures and checkpoints to which Palestinians were subjected daily. All those who believed in freedom, democracy and justice must join in the efforts to end the occupation of Palestinian territories, which was hampering development.

Ms. R. MAKRI (Greece) said it was apparent from the arguments clearly articulated in the background paper that risk-resilient development, taking into account demographic trends and natural constraints, was a prerequisite for sustainable development in the eyes of the international community. There was a two-way connection, however, between government policies in time of economic crisis and both those forms of development. In her country, unnecessary budget restrictions had led to full-blown recession and also disrupted the State's ability to design and implement policies for preventing the devastating effects of risks from climate change and disaster which, combined with such demographic trends as urbanization, posed a huge challenge to the achievement of sustainable development. In that context, horizontal reduction and market deregulation represented a serious impediment to

development. Risk management should be approached from a holistic viewpoint focused on the interaction between different types of risk and risk management strategies, with parliamentarians playing a crucial role in the light of their direct knowledge of people's needs and their ability to make recommendations accordingly. Ongoing dialogue on the subject would conceivably promote that more holistic approach to development and the role of socio-economic and environmental factors in economic expansion.

Mr. A. ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia), observing that the highest losses from natural disasters occurred in developing countries, stated the key question: how could those countries, with their limited resources, attain their development goals while also building their risk management capacity? Obstacles to those goals included lack of infrastructure and technology and dependency on a single income source and external assistance. His country had extended over US\$ 100 billion in non-refundable assistance to disaster-affected countries in the past 40 years, thereby exceeding the annual target for the allocation of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) to official development assistance (ODA). Risk-resilient development called for changes in institutional, cultural and political attitudes and commitment to good governance. In developing countries, parliamentarians across the political spectrum must act on their responsibility to improve well-being, especially during times of crisis; play a stronger role in the development of reconstruction plans; and work to enhance transparency, promote human rights, prevent abuses of power, minimize corruption, increase accountability and strengthen public trust in institutions and government. Foreign aid dependency must also be reduced through expansion of free trade between developed and developing countries. Political stability and living conditions in the latter could also be improved through the promotion of world peace.

Mr. A. CARDELLI (San Marino) said that the choices made by his country, the world's oldest republic, were testimony to the importance of a small State within the international community. In the matter of sustainable growth, San Marino was keen to play the role of protagonist, believing in the possibility of a more inclusive form of development based on a country's specificities and regardless of its size. A member of the international community since the early 1990s, San Marino was a signatory to Agenda 21, the global action plan on sustainable development, and its Parliament had recently approved a national petition for stronger integration of Agenda 21 projects with a view to fighting poverty, disease and illiteracy in developing countries. It pledged to stand by the international community in that fight and in the efforts to promote growth in order to improve living standards and narrow existing gaps. As a young politician, he had a vision of a different future in which new generations could chart a new world order. He therefore looked forward to ongoing fruitful dialogue between those exercising a political mandate and young persons seeking active political engagement. Concerted efforts to achieve shared objectives could change the future of the planet.

Mr. S.-H. KIM (Republic of Korea) expressed the opinion that accurate projection and response preparation were instrumental to risk-resilient development, which also demanded a focus on variances in population dynamics at national and regional levels. Lack of access to contraceptives in developing countries led to unwanted pregnancies, exposing children consequently growing up in an unsupportive environment to socio-economic risks. Countries must therefore strive to maintain a size of population in line with their carrying capacities, also bearing in mind the benefits accruing to maternal and child health as a result of fewer unintended pregnancies. Notwithstanding the upward global trend in population growth, his country was among those with rapidly ageing populations and low fertility rates, which it was addressing through tax incentives and other measures to promote childbirth and support parents. Appropriate objective and consistent national policies must be devised and implemented, without political interference, for promoting sustainable development in the light

of threats posed by rising or declining populations. Parliaments must also exercise oversight to ensure uniform implementation of those policies and further ensure that related legislation was based on fair and accurate projections. On that score, the simulation model being developed by his own Parliament for forecasting demographic changes and resulting resource demands could be useful.

Mr. A. DJELLOUT (Algeria) remarked that the growing number, frequency and impact of recent disasters served as a reminder of the potentially devastating human and economic consequences of such events, with the result that increasing attention was devoted to disaster management at global environmental meetings. Vulnerable as it was to disaster risks from multiple hazards, such as flooding, drought and desertification, Algeria worked constantly to adapt its legal framework for disaster prevention and to strengthen its disaster action plan. Measures taken included the enactment of a risk management and prevention law, pursuant to which the National Delegation for Major Risks had been established to prevent and manage disasters and improve the coordination of stakeholder activities. In fulfilment of its international obligations, Algeria had also earlier in 2013 submitted its third national progress report on implementation of the HFA. Concerning the post-2015 risk reduction agenda, priority must be given to the financing of special funds by developed countries and to real technology transfer as part of North-South and South-South cooperation.

Mr. J.M. GALÁN PACHÓN (Colombia), referring to the development of reproductive and sexual health programmes in the context of population management, agreed with the view that trainer training was a vital part of the equation. The holistic approach was another important element. In Latin American countries, there were dichotomies between their extractive economies and environment, as in the case of Colombia. How should it balance its wealth of strategic water resources with the use of strategic energy resources needed in the short term for economic growth? The holistic approach also related to Colombia's problem of organized crime. Cocaine production and exports had decreased dramatically in the past two years and, on the evidence of digital images revealing new gaps in the forests, the fear was that drug traffickers had shifted their attention to illegal mining. Those forest clearances were a matter of serious concern, given the damage to the topography already caused by flood damage in the country's worst natural disaster only a few years earlier. Landslides and illegal construction were among the many challenges facing Colombia.

Mr. B.P. BAISHYA (India) said that risk-resilient development was possible only when those responsible for initiating development were accountable for the associated risks and potential consequences. Survival and success demanded risk resilience, adaptation to anticipated change, and the ability to recover from risk events and seize opportunities hidden within those events. The impact of hazards was largely determined by the level and quality of development. Given the growing intensity and frequency of extreme climate-related events, it was imperative to minimize risks and build resilience to disasters through tangible and focused actions, including with respect to policy framework, institutional capability, basic infrastructure, technology transfer and access to finance. Preservation of the ecological components of the environment was also critical, as was the evaluation of demographic trends to policy-making for risk-resilient development and to taking timely corrective measures, where needed. Fully engaged in pursuing its environmental and climate-change strategies, India was also actively involved in environmental protection through its participation in numerous international instruments. Its voluntary mitigation goal was to reduce the emission intensity of its gross domestic product and it was committed to the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility, as well as to the HFA 2005-2015.

Mr. A. SNAID (Jordan) stated that the worst of all disasters were inflicted on human beings by dictatorships, which set back a country's development, denied its people the right to a decent livelihood and subjected them to a backward culture. As to natural disasters, they were transient. The absence of development in some countries was attributable to the undemocratic and unrepresentative nature of their regimes and the lack of transparency and oversight that fuelled corruption, leading to waste and misuse of resources, not to mention political instability and disturbances, all of which deterred foreign investment. Legal restrictions on the transfer of capital, barriers to globalization and failure to benefit from others' experiences posed further obstacles to development, as did the failure to prioritize the creation of an enabling infrastructure. Public rights and freedoms were also compromised in undemocratic systems, where the people were hostage to circumstance and driven closer to rebellion by the experience of ever more sharply declining living standards. Local culture was another factor influencing socially acceptable action and the climate of freedom. In summary, a transition from dictatorship to democracy was essential to triggering the development that would improve the lives of millions by lifting them out of hardship and suffering.

Mr. F. MEZA (Chile), recalling his teenage experience of a violent earthquake in Chile, said that the beauties of nature were sometimes tempered by the havoc wreaked from its disasters. His country's more recent earthquake, in 2010, was another reminder of human fragility and the need for technological advances to avoid the high death tolls and economic consequences of natural disasters. Aware as it already was of the implications of climate change for the planet, the international community should assist in educating the world's people in how to cope with those disasters. Regional offices for coordinating such education and disaster response should be established. Chile was taking legislative and other measures for dealing with emergencies, but technological assistance was needed to foresee and prevent natural disasters, wherever possible. Through technological transfer and international cooperation to act on the present discussion, human lives could be saved and the economic impact of disasters could be minimized.

Mr. A. SALIMI (Islamic Republic of Iran), recalling the function of the MDGs as a global compact, noted that they had not fully addressed the intricate complexities of some aspects of development but were nonetheless seen, from the developing-country perspective, as crucial to international cooperation. The failure of developed countries to deliver on their commitments under the compact, notably with respect to the ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP, was thus regrettable. Insofar as there was no one-size-fits-all policy for development goals, an enabling international environment was vital to assisting their pursuit in accordance with national priorities. For developing countries, the primary objective of sustainable development was economic development, with a built-in social component. Stronger international cooperation in such areas as environment, technology transfer and knowledge-sharing was crucial to addressing the related challenges. Developed countries must therefore adopt measures to promote sustainable development in developing countries; lend their support for progress in all economic, financial and trade matters; and provide the financial and technological resources needed for the implementation of development programmes.

Mr. M. AMWEELO (Namibia) remarked that the myriad challenges confronting millions of people in countries such as his included the problem of natural hazards and disasters, which caused devastating losses and had significant consequences for communities and the economy. Annual flooding in Namibia had led to substantial infrastructural damage, which could be mitigated if experts took the trouble to consult with local communities concerning appropriate measures. A disaster management policy was in place, but three important elements were lacking, namely financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, which must be provided in order to resolve the problems faced.

Mr. T. BARAMO TESSEMA (Ethiopia) said that if humanity was to survive in the face of current trends in population growth and natural resources depletion, alternative development models must be found to cater for the production modes and consumption patterns responsible for creating pressure on those limited resources. In Ethiopia, the hope was that such dividends as improved rural living standards would soon be reaped from the demographic transition under way, signalled in particular by the falling rates for under-fives mortality and total fertility. In positioning the country's capacity to harness those dividends, the Government would continue to set policies and strategies to promote well-being. Indeed, absolute poverty had already declined as a result of its focus on income generation and employment. Policies to address the interaction between population and sustainable development included a climate-resilient green economy strategy designed to achieve the fundamental objective of an environmentally-friendly structural transformation through forest protection and re-establishment and the expansion of renewable energy sources. Ethiopia's contribution to global climate change mitigation efforts was embodied in its target of zero carbon emissions by 2030, while its plans for accelerated sustainable development, growth and transformation attested to its progress towards risk-resilient development in the light of demographic trends and natural constraints.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) recounted that his country had an institutional and legal framework in place for disaster management and robust provisions in its new Constitution to ensure respect for environmental rights in the interest of environmental sustainability. An environmental management authority was responsible for dealing with day-to-day environmental issues. Concerning prevention and cure, humankind had failed to curb the causes of climate change that were the main trigger of natural disasters. The balance of nature's flora and fauna must be respected and the unevenness of development across the world must also be addressed. Global warming, rising sea levels and shifting weather patterns were all indicative of climate change. Socio-economic rights must be observed in matters of human development, particularly where extractive industries were concerned. Lastly, it was critical to climate management for the international community to speak with one voice in dealing with disaster-related matters and to work on that score for prevention rather than cure.

Mr. R. MOHAMED (United Republic of Tanzania), observing that all countries had experienced some form of natural disaster, said that parliaments and the global community must be mindful of the fact that failure to address problems in a timely and proactive manner would lead to much more serious and costly problems in future. They must work to strengthen democratic institutions, fight corruption and increase the transparency of financial management, in addition to ensuring that budgets for risk reduction topped their agendas. Risk-resilient development demanded increased financial investment and political commitment, which should be taken into account in the post-2015 agenda, with an added focus on family planning and population issues. It must not be forgotten, however, that countries such as his lacked financial, human and technological resources. Support would therefore be welcome from the multinationals operating in those countries, where they were not only largely responsible for the destruction of ecosystems but also adept at evading taxation. The international community must also deliver on its pledges of assistance.

Ms. C. NABWALA (Kenya) said that the biggest driver of the increasing disaster risk was the substantial growth of population and assets in at-risk areas, which exposed them to natural hazards. Migration to coastal areas and the expansion of cities in flood plains, coupled with inappropriate and poorly enforced building standards, were key examples. The risk was further increased by the degradation of such ecosystem barriers as mangrove swamps. Hydro-meteorological disasters were responsible for almost 80 per cent of adverse natural events and 75 per cent of losses. Certain areas of Kenya, for instance, were annually exposed to flooding. Disaster risk-resilient development was not only about protecting people's lives and livelihoods

but also about social, economic and environmental sustainability, the aim being to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to natural hazards. Disasters took countries on a backward path, a situation compounded by the losses of tourism revenue suffered by many disaster-affected countries, which in turn had implications for livelihoods. Climate change was another of the identified challenges to sustainable development facing the global community.

Mr. J.R. LEÓN RIVERA (Peru) reported that a civil defence system, regulated by law, was in operation throughout Peru to mitigate disaster damage, primarily from flooding. Construction was also prohibited within 50 metres of the coastline as a disaster risk reduction and prevention measure. Incentives were provided for private investment in reforestation and operations to tackle illegal deforestation were overseen by the police and armed forces. Such strategies had worked well in helping Peru to forestall disaster and pre-empt unsustainable growth.

Mr. A. BUDIMANTA (Indonesia) said that sustainable development could be substantially boosted if parliaments formulated constructive regulations, monitored their implementation and also ensured their continuity in order to overcome the food and energy crisis that loomed particularly large in the technologically-challenged least developed countries. Together with natural resources and agricultural development, demographic change was an indispensable consideration in the quest for sustainability. While such change might indicate health and prosperity, population growth should be stabilized. His country's efforts on that score therefore underlined the importance of family planning and also included a national transmigration programme for distributing population growth and balancing the consumption of national resources. Rural development was also visible as a result of decentralization, an important measure for slowing the pace of urbanization. In maximizing the benefits of sustainable development through the enactment of favourable laws and regulations, the integration of adaptation and development strategies was essential to achieving a better understanding of financing requirements and more effective implementation of measures adopted. Lastly, the post-2015 development goals must be more ambitious than the MDGs and also have a core focus on sustainability issues, based on a transformative people-centred and planet-sensitive agenda to be realized through the equal partnership of all stakeholders.

Ms. G. REQUENA (Venezuela), noting the common thread of predatory capitalism, commented that consideration must be given to the socio-economic model of development. The challenges of development were being tackled in her country, where the risks of disaster had been exacerbated in the past by poor housing and living standards. Immense housing construction projects were therefore being implemented to redress that situation. A law on civil protection, disaster management and development was in place, the subject of disaster prevention and mitigation was included in education programmes, and a national socio-economic plan with strategic goals was soon to be adopted. The fact was that disasters were not isolated events; they were linked to the development model. Efforts must therefore be directed towards halting the damage caused by the capitalist model and its adverse impacts, including climate change.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) expressed the view that the background paper should address the lack of family planning in greater depth and consider radical solutions to the problem, bearing in mind that it frequently involved underdeveloped, impoverished and uneducated communities, possibly including followers of religions that prohibited contraception. While natural disaster prevention was an impossibility, options were available for halting disasters precipitated by lack of family planning, which had enormous socio-economic and political consequences that could be rectified only in the long term. The background paper also lacked emphasis on the need for spending on education and health, which was a vital issue, and it should furthermore underscore the key role to be undertaken in disaster protection by international funds and developed countries in terms of providing

assistance to developing countries. It was additionally true to say that disasters and their worst impacts could be averted through international cooperation for global security and stability to prohibit the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the construction of nuclear reactors in earthquake zones. Lastly, the background paper should focus more clearly on the part played by parliamentarians in all such issues, whether through legislation or oversight of government action.

Mr. G. MONDE (Zambia), agreeing that demographic trends and natural constraints were cardinal to any development agenda, said that there were clear implications for decision-makers in the fact that resilience, the central goal of disaster risk reduction, was now a guiding concept for the post-2015 agenda. Considering the increase in disasters with socio-economic impacts that deepened poverty and even political instability, policymakers had recognized the need for a paradigm shift to a risk-sensitive development model, with disaster risk assessment as a prerequisite for planning to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience. Risk-informed decision-making could also safeguard socio-economic gains through such measures as investment in new engineering and architectural designs, the introduction of appropriate land-use methods and the use of incentives for those living in disaster-prone areas to relocate or take up new occupations. In short, action on disaster risk-resilient development must be prioritized to avoid dire humanitarian, economic and environmental consequences from natural constraints, which demanded political commitment and the scaling up of investment in disaster-risk measures. An encouraging fact was that such measures were not only feasible and cost-effective but also often inherent in national governance and economic agendas.

Mr. R.M. AL SHURAIQI (United Arab Emirates) remarked that sustainable development was threatened by the growth in population and urban construction that increased vulnerability to disaster and natural hazards, which had caused millions of deaths and were in themselves a major cause of demographic and socio-economic change. Drought- and famine-prone areas were expanding, as were both youth unemployment and underpaid work as a corollary of rapid population growth, while 1.2 billion continued to live in extreme poverty. Parliaments bore the primary responsibility for countering natural and environmental hazards by prioritizing increased budget allocations for the environmental and demographic components intrinsic to sustainable development programmes; establishing policy committees to make recommendations on matters relating to population and sustainable production and consumption; calling for IPU cooperation with the United Nations to establish an international fund to combat climate change and natural disasters; organizing an international parliamentary review, through the IPU, of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Development and Population, with an emphasis on reproductive rights and women's rights; and developing a mechanism for enabling national parliaments to gauge the effectiveness of their oversight of government efforts towards sustainable development.

The delegate from ALGERIA said that his country recognized the need to balance the duty of environmental protection with the demands of sustainable development and risk reduction through sound resources management and measures to counter the challenges of desertification, expanding construction on agricultural land and worsening pollution. Its risk-reduction tools included pollution mapping and tax incentives to discourage hazardous waste storage, while its national sustainable development and risk reduction strategy addressed four main areas of concern: economic development for prosperity and poverty alleviation; conservation of limited natural resources such as water and farming land; improvement of the living environment through better waste management; and creation of the legal architecture to those ends. The government had allocated substantial funding in support of sustainable development and risk reduction through projects for coastal protection, biodiversity protection and household waste recycling. It was thus engaged in determined efforts to achieve

sustainable development, not least for the benefit of future generations. In the light of technological progress enabling such advances as three-month weather forecasts, he nonetheless wondered if the outlook on disasters and natural hazards was not overly pessimistic. The problem was in fact more one of politics than of resources or population growth.

Mr. J.-W. KIL (Republic of Korea) observed that the first lesson to be learned in confronting natural disasters concerned the effectiveness of regional cooperation. In March 2013, the Korean Parliament had thus hosted a regional workshop, in conjunction with the UNISDR, at which participants had shared their knowledge and expertise and discussed the role of legislators in addressing the challenges posed by disasters. The second lesson concerned climate change-related disasters and the fact that preventive and pre-emptive measures were more important than mitigation and adaptation. In the context of such measures, the Korean-founded Global Green Growth Institute had been transformed into an international organization at Rio+ 20 and the Green Climate Fund had also been launched in the Korea at the same time. The two bodies would share professional expertise and allocate funding to promote green growth in least developed and developing countries. The related educational programmes and projects would emphasize pre-emptive measures for tackling natural disasters with a view to risk reduction.

The MODERATOR invited concluding remarks from the co-Rapporteurs and panellists.

Mr. S.H. CHOWDHURY, co-Rapporteur, indicated that parliamentarians were clearly in a position to engage in the issue at all levels through their major role in policy articulation, legislation, oversight and representation. Taking into account the current paradigm shift to a proactive approach for dealing with problems in general, the core factor in disaster reduction and resilience was to identify means of fortifying development while at the same time protecting past gains from future threat. Population and demographics were important elements, but it was essentially faulty planning choices that brought adverse consequences from natural hazards insofar as an inadequate response turned them into man-made disasters. Risk-resilience development was therefore a matter of governance, priority-setting and also identifying the drivers of risk, bearing in mind that an account of historical losses was vital to garnering additional resources for disaster reduction purposes. In short, risk-informed decisions were the key to moving the agenda forward. Every effort would be made to incorporate the points made during the discussion into the resolution to be drafted and to recommend model legislation based on successful disaster-related laws already in place in various countries.

Mr. P. MAHOUX, co-Rapporteur, concurred on the parliamentary role and the need for efficiency and action-oriented outcomes and re-emphasized the importance of education and of trainer training in particular. Another fundamental prerequisite to sustainable development was the establishment of peace and democracy. Disaster prevention was crucial and without compare as a highly effective tool for reducing the cost of disaster in terms of human lives and reconstruction. Concerning climate change and environmental degradation, multinationals and countries responsible for the biggest emissions must indeed offset the resulting damage by contributing a greater share towards the cost of disaster prevention measures. As to optimism for the future, the potential solutions called for a change in attitudes and, crucially, the transfer of technology for dealing with issues relating to population as well as to natural disasters. Of critical importance overall was the need for international solidarity.

Ms. M. WAHLSTRÖM, Panellist, observed that the evident knowledge, passion and engagement of participants formed a solid basis for progress and highlighted key areas that should ideally feature in future policy-making, specifically: risk governance; local governance; transboundary mechanisms; public safety and well-being; holistic development interventions; vulnerability to extreme events; public and informal education; knowledge transfer; and political leadership by parliaments on the issue.

Ms. M. TEMMERMANN, Panellist, endorsing the view that prevention was better than cure and also more cost-effective, urged parliamentarians to take the lead in ensuring that the new post-2015 development architecture was expanded to include emphasis on such matters as energy, resources and social development. Drawing inspiration from the example of smoking and tobacco use, means of changing public attitudes must also be explored with a view to conserving energy and resources and reducing waste. In conclusion, she underlined the long-recognized and inextricable link between the two huge environmental problems of population growth and climate change; to discuss one while ignoring the other was irrational.

The MODERATOR thanked all participants for their contributions to a highly fruitful discussion.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict

Item 3(c) of the agenda

Panel discussion on the subject item chosen for debate by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights during the 130th Assembly

Sitting of Tuesday, 8 October
(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. with the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. O. Kyei-Mensah-Bonsu (Ghana) in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced the two co-Rapporteurs who had been appointed at the 128th Assembly, Ms. J. Nassif (Bahrain) and Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico), and two panellists, Ms. L. Aubin, Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Dr. M. Mattar, Executive Director, The Protection Project, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies.

He informed the Committee that the Assembly would be adopting various amendments to the Rules and Statutes of the IPU, including to the Rules of the Assembly, which would affect the working methods of the Standing Committees. He urged all Committee members to read the information paper that had been produced by the Secretariat, which outlined the key changes.

Ms. J. NASSIF, co-Rapporteur, said that parliamentarians needed to assume their responsibility in finding solutions to conflict situations, which often brought about extreme suffering for children. Despite the numerous international conventions relating to the protection of children, many governments were not sufficiently concerned with promoting the rights of children, meaning that in times of conflict many were exploited and were either encouraged or forced to join armed military or militia groups. It was essential that all parliaments upheld the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and prohibited the involvement of children in conflict. Such exploitation of children prevented many from continuing their education, and witnessing that kind of violence at such a young age often had a lifelong psychological effect. Parliaments needed to ensure that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols were implemented effectively, so as to guarantee that children were protected, could have stable lives, and were able to contribute as citizens to the development of their own countries.

She drew attention to her background paper on the subject (document A/129/3(c)-R.1), which contained 11 separate recommendations on promoting and protecting the rights and interests of children, particularly through preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict. Bahrain had prepared a comprehensive report on the subject that would be made available online to all delegates and which she hoped they would all consult and find helpful.

Ms. G. CUEVAS, co-Rapporteur, said that parliamentarians needed to reflect on their role in protecting children, especially as it had been several years since a discussion on that topic had been held within the IPU. Countries had many different experiences to share and one of the most important steps would be to look at the definitions contained in legislative frameworks.

No children left home because they wanted to, but there were many reasons why children chose to migrate, including personal and family reasons, to seek better education, opportunities or health care, or to flee domestic violence or conflict, war and poverty. It was

clear that migration had increased in recent years, and some 33 million migrants worldwide – or 15 per cent of the total migrant population – were under 20 years old. The 15 to 19 years age group was the largest, followed by the 10 to 14 years age group. However, there was still not sufficient information on why individual children migrated. Such information was either scarce or difficult to obtain, meaning that the international community did not always know what the reality was, especially as the situation could vary considerably from country to country.

It was essential that all countries upheld the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination was applied and children had the right to life, survival, development, protection from violence and due process. At present, some countries criminalized migration and detained or repatriated migrants. When children were involved, however, especially unaccompanied children, such practices had to stop. It was essential that interviewers were properly trained, as children often could not or would not explain why they were migrating, especially if they were being trafficked or exploited and felt threatened.

The resolution needed to ensure a protected status for unaccompanied migrant children, as well as establish appropriate due processes and the provision of food, a warm environment and clothes for children when their status was being assessed. It was not acceptable to deport children and risk leaving them in the hands of traffickers or criminals.

She looked forward to hearing the experiences and opinions of parliamentarians, which would provide valuable input for the resolution that the co-Rapporteurs would be drafting.

At the request of Ms. G. Cuevas, co-Rapporteur, a video produced by Save the Children was screened, which included interviews with children from various countries about their experiences as migrants and/or refugees.

Ms. L. AUBIN, Panellist, said that, as an agency focused on refugees, a main area of the work of UNHCR was dealing with child refugees, migrants and asylum seekers who had been forced to cross borders or move within their own countries in search of a better life. There were millions of such children around the world, but sadly the statistics were often no more than estimates, as there was a distinct paucity of accurate data, especially age- and sex-disaggregated data, making it difficult to tailor services to specific needs of individuals and fill the current gaps in the systems for protection. Countries needed to collect sufficient disaggregated data, especially on internally displaced children. The ongoing Syrian crisis exemplified well those challenges of data collection, registration, and profiling of child refugees and migrants and their needs.

Unaccompanied children were a tragic feature of almost all refugee situations but, because of challenges to data collection, they were often invisible. Within the UN humanitarian system, UNHCR worked with other actors and agencies to respond to the needs of children on the move and had set standards and policies and provided guidance and various tools to that end. Regarding asylum seeking, guidelines had been issued on ensuring that the specific needs were addressed of children who were at risk of persecution as a result of ethnic background, religious affiliation, language, or imputed political affiliation. There were also inter-agency standards on operational responses for protecting children.

Another key issue to be addressed was the risk of statelessness faced by many children. The rights to a name, registration at birth and identification were human rights and were essential for children if they were to be prevented from becoming stateless. It was all the more necessary for refugee and migrant children, as the appropriate documentation would ensure quicker identification at borders and a better level of protection. A lack of that documentation was often a bar to public services, including education, which had serious repercussions on families in terms of maintaining livelihoods.

Much had been said about the principle enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the best interests of the child and how to implement that in practice. Often it required State authorities to work with other specialists, such as psychologists and protection specialists, to speak to the child and others in the community to determine the best outcome for that child. When dealing with children caught up in mixed migration movements, such action became critical. Those seeking asylum could be fleeing persecution or war, while others could be migrating simply in search of better opportunities. Various interventions were needed for different individuals and, as such, there needed to be coordination of the measures to be taken at all stages, whether in the countries of origin, transit, or destination. In the same way, the different services involved in national protection systems also needed to adopt a coordinated and coherent approach to fill any gaps in those systems and to provide the necessary protection to children on a basis of non-discrimination.

Sensitive arrival and reception procedures were needed for migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking children to ensure the necessary level of protection. It was important to identify children quickly and determine whether they were alone or accompanied and, if the latter, whether they were accompanied by parents or traffickers. Staff at borders or reception centres also needed to determine whether children had been victims of sexual violence or other human rights violations in order to tailor the necessary services to individuals. Children should be able to understand the procedures they were faced with; even young children could often articulate why they had been separated from their families or why they had travelled either to another country or within their own country. The staff who interacted with them therefore needed to be appropriately trained for dealing with children and their needs. They should be able to interview children sensitively and extract the information that was needed for assessing which services should be provided. Mechanisms also needed to be put in place to appoint legal guardians or representatives and to begin family tracing processes, as reuniting children with their parents or families was critical to ensuring there was a genuine protective environment for the child.

Mr. M. MATTAR, Panellist, provided an outline of the Model Law on Child Protection, a joint venture by the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and others, which sought to provide responses to the issue of unaccompanied migrant children and child protection. The Model Law was based on the four main principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child: the best interests of the child; the principle of non-discrimination; the right to life and development; and the principle of participation and the right of the child to express her/his views and for those views to be heard. The Model Law was also based on other important principles recognized by international human rights law, including: the principle of non-criminalization and non-punishment of the child; the right of access for child victims to services including education, health care, free and equal legal assistance, justice, counselling and rehabilitation measures; the right to compensation, supported by the establishment of State funds for child victims; and the principle that the protection of a child required non-legislative measures, for example through addressing harmful customary practices. Such principles were embodied in international law, which should take precedence over domestic law in such matters. It was also pertinent to consider other relevant conventions in addition to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including International Labour Organization conventions relating to child labour and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which prohibited child marriage.

The Model Law adopted an expansive definition of exploitation, including sexual, economic and other forms of exploitation to which a child could be at risk. Furthermore, the Model Law paid particular attention to the protection of children in vulnerable situations, including unaccompanied migrant children, children trafficked for sexual exploitation, children involved in begging or other forms of forced labour, children affected by armed conflict, child

soldiers, children living in countries in transition or under occupation, children with disabilities, and internally displaced, refugee, or asylum-seeking children. He urged for those issues to also be a focus of the IPU resolution.

It was essential that parliaments shared best practices and information on relevant laws in each country, so that they could learn from each other and the resolution could borrow from all effective laws worldwide. It would also be crucial to initiate not only responsive but also preventive measures, which could be done, for example, by cooperating with NGOs and others to provide necessary services to children, setting the age of admittance to the armed forces at 18 years or above, imposing stiffer penalties for trafficking or exploiting children, and prohibiting the use of children in political and social conflict or unrest.

Debate

Ms. M. KUMAR (India) said that nearly every fifth child in the world lived in India and they were considered a national asset. India sought to promote and protect children's rights through its Constitution, its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and through several legislative measures, including the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, which was relevant to the children of migrant families.

Migration of people within India posed particular problems, as migrants often constituted the most vulnerable groups of society, with the least assets, skills or education. Children made up a huge proportion of that migrant population and efforts were underway to educate families about entitlements and how they could be protected under the provisions of various laws. There was also legislation that ensured the State would provide shelter to any child who had no family or lacked support, through care and protection measures such as sponsorship, adoption and foster care. An integrated child protection scheme had been launched in India to bring together all existing child protection initiatives under one structure, thus enhancing capacity and intersectoral responses at all levels.

Although India did not currently face armed conflict, there were still situations of civil unrest. To protect children caught up in such situations, a pilot scheme had been launched in affected districts whereby trained local youth volunteers acted as defenders of children's rights.

Mr. M. AL-HAJERI (Kuwait) said that ensuring children were protected and looked after was the first step towards a society in which citizens could participate in the development of their country. Protecting the rights of children, including to education, health, and guidance, should be the priority of all. Regarding unaccompanied migrant children, Kuwait was focused on ensuring their safety and security, as child labour, exploitation and violation of their rights were all of concern to the authorities and it was essential that there should not be negative consequences on the education of those children.

He emphasized the need for legislative measures to reflect the provisions of relevant international instruments in order to address child labour and exploitation and to promote and advance environments that were favourable to children and their development. The Parliament of Kuwait had passed legislation aimed at protecting children and had incorporated the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into its Constitution, guaranteeing the rights of mothers and children.

Ms. J.-A. HAN (Republic of Korea) lamented the fact that, despite the efforts of States, organizations and civil society groups to step up the protection of children – particularly migrant children – and their rights, they were still among the most vulnerable groups in society. She underscored the principle of "non-refoulement" as the cornerstone of UNHCR's mandate to protect; universal compliance with that principle was essential, particularly with regard to protecting child refugees.

Recently, the human rights of unaccompanied migrant children from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been seriously violated, through their forced return to their country of origin from a neighbouring country. All parliamentarians needed to express their strong support for and interest in guaranteeing the legal protection of the human rights of such child refugees from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including through coordinated regional multilateral agreements. All countries needed to refrain from deporting people against their will and to ensure the protection of affected children, in accordance with international humanitarian norms.

Mrs. S. KOUKOUMA KOUTRA (Cyprus) said that it was true that there were many reasons why children migrated, but the challenges began when they reached their countries of destination and risked having their rights violated, including through being detained by the authorities, discrimination, and the risk of abuse, sexual exploitation, and child labour. The present economic situation of many countries should not be allowed to lead to further child victimization or to endanger their well-being.

Parliamentarians needed to act urgently to adopt legislation that was aligned with international legal frameworks and agreements such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to provide the necessary care for migrant children and to protect their human rights, especially for those who were unaccompanied. It was the duty of parliamentarians to encourage all relevant stakeholders to protect unaccompanied minors from exploitation and to instigate processes for reuniting unaccompanied migrant children with their families. All countries needed to recognize that the most effective way of tackling the issue would be to address the underlying causes of such migration.

Ms. M. MULARONI (San Marino) noted that the issue of protecting children in armed conflict was not new and remained a great challenge to the international community. In several countries, most notably the Syrian Arab Republic, child victims of conflict were being forced to flee their homes. Parliaments needed to act sensitively to raise public awareness and find appropriate solutions to protect those children. All States should ensure compliance with international humanitarian law to guarantee that protection at all times and to ensure that children were not at risk of being killed.

Ms. T. BOONTONG (Thailand) said that Thailand faced no internal conflict or wars but did provide humanitarian assistance and shelter to displaced persons and migrants who arrived in the country. Thailand also cooperated with countries of origin and international organizations to ensure safe passage for migrant children and their families back to their homelands.

Thailand was greatly concerned about the plight of unaccompanied migrant children and the risks they faced in conflict situations. Parliamentarians needed to use their position to prevent situations where such children could be exploited and should enhance their oversight of governments to hold them accountable on spending to ensure that appropriate amounts were allocated to child protection. Parliaments should also facilitate dialogue between parties in conflict to protect the lives and human rights of children, to stop them becoming unaccompanied migrants, and to prevent them from being enlisted into military service.

Mrs. Z. BENAROUS (Algeria) said that the violence suffered by children in conflict situations was not limited to developing countries but was also a reality in many developed countries. Each year, millions of children were exploited, forced to work in difficult circumstance or even killed. Experts had stated that protecting all children in the world would cost US\$ 29 billion, or the equivalent of just 2.5 per cent of global military expenditure.

Algeria had taken several measures to combat the exploitation and abuse of children, including through its Civil and Penal Codes, the ratification of relevant international treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, and adopting a strategy in cooperation with UNICEF. The kidnapping of children was punishable by imprisonment and military service did not start before the age of 19. Algeria also sought to provide the necessary food, education and vaccinations to children in the Sahel region.

She expressed appreciation for the video that had been shown, but added that it would have been beneficial to hear from children in the Arab world, especially Palestine. The final resolution on the topic should include references to children in the occupied territories of Palestine, who were often deprived of basic services.

Ms. L. ALANSARI (Saudi Arabia) reported that her country's parliament, the Shura Council, strongly supported the development of legislation and infrastructure for the protection of children, especially as 40 per cent of the population was under 18 years old. Saudi Arabia had acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as several other conventions with provisions on protecting children. A number of relevant laws had also been enacted in the country, including on protection from abuse and the prohibition of all forms of trafficking, including of children.

Her delegation recommended that the IPU should have a more structured approach to requesting periodic reports on countries' compliance with its resolutions and the status of implementation. Such an approach would increase awareness among parliaments on IPU resolutions, create a platform for sharing information on enhancing implementation and provide useful data for future planning.

Ms. A. NAUMCHIK (Belarus) underscored the importance of protecting children, above all in situations of conflict. All children needed the best possible conditions at the start of their lives, including access to education and opportunities to develop their individual abilities in safe and secure environments. Parliamentarians needed to use their role to ensure the material and moral well-being of children and to preserve their health and psychological, social, emotional and cultural development, which should be a priority at both the national and global levels.

In protecting and promoting children's rights, the international community should strive to eradicate poverty and fight HIV/AIDS; invest in education for all children; and ensure that their needs were met and they could participate fully in society.

Mr. A. ELZEIN (Lebanon) said that his country experienced many grave consequences of the conflict situations in the Middle East, not least the ongoing Syrian crisis and continued tensions with Israel. As a result of the latter, 650,000 Palestinian refugees resided in Lebanon, often in unacceptable conditions. The problem continued to grow, especially with the influx of Syrian refugees as well, which had serious consequences on the social, economic and political stability of Lebanon. Living conditions had worsened for many in the country, not least for refugees. Refugee children were among those who suffered the most, given their need for education, health care and nutrition. More than 1.3 million Syrian refugees were living in camps or elsewhere in Lebanon, and the country was concerned that it could not continue to take in such numbers without further damaging its already weak health care and education systems.

Mr. T. AKAEDA (Japan) explained that in addition to being a parliamentarian, he was also a gynaecologist and, in that capacity, had dealt with many problems affecting children, such as child abuse. The Japanese Parliament had enacted several pieces of legislation on child welfare, preventing child abuse and protecting the rights and interests of children and in recent years, some of that legislation had been further amended and strengthened.

There were over 200 child guidance centres nationwide, established as a result of the Welfare Act, which helped to protect abused children. Case workers were able to conduct investigations into such abuse and develop strategies for support for the affected children. Abuse constituted a serious violation of a child's human rights and it was therefore critical that all parliaments developed effective public policies for protection, especially as young children themselves were often unable to articulate their experiences and needs.

Ms. A. ČRNAK-MEGLIČ (Slovenia) reported that the status of unaccompanied children in her country was regulated quite well and those who sought protection had the right to residence, care, accommodation, education, legal assistance and to follow procedures in their own language. They also benefited from special NGO-led projects. However, despite the regulations and good legislative solutions, Slovenia faced various problems in ensuring the provision of accommodation and education to those children, whose situations were often aggravated by long, drawn-out procedures. Another problem was the lack of information on the routes taken by unaccompanied minors to Slovenia which, most of the time, was only a transit country as migrants continued to Northern and Western Europe.

It was essential that actions taken were always in the best interest of the child, which required close cooperation and a coordinated approach among countries of origin, transit, and destination. Parliamentarians could play a key role at the regional and global levels, not least through ensuring an appropriate declaration and action plan within the IPU to define priorities and develop a coordinated approach on the issue.

Mr. Y. SÁNCHEZ CUÉLLAR (Cuba) said that it was the duty of the international community to defend and protect children in order to guarantee a safer world for all. Cuba defended the best interests of children and their right to a healthy life, free of violence and discrimination, a home with their parents, well-being, and social and spiritual development.

Unaccompanied migrant children were extremely vulnerable, especially to the risk of sexual exploitation, child labour or forced detention. They were also easy prey for organized crime groups. As such, countries needed to have effective strategies to address the various causes of child migration and to uphold their international commitments on protecting and respecting children and their rights. Her country had enacted a number of laws and established a parliamentary commission to protect children, including migrant children, whether they were travelling legally or illegally. She urged all countries that had not yet ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so and proposed that the resolution to be developed by the co-Rapporteurs should make reference to reports by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on unaccompanied migrant children and those involved in wars and armed conflict.

Ms. R. SHILENGA (Namibia) said that her country had ratified several international instruments on the protection of the rights of children, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Those instruments had been incorporated into domestic legislation focusing on protecting children and their rights.

There were no known cases of child migrants entering Namibia unaccompanied by either a parent or guardian but should such a situation arise, the country had appropriate programmes in place to handle cases.

She underscored that it was the duty of parliamentarians to seek sustainable solutions to protecting the rights of children, including unaccompanied child migrants and those in situations of war and conflict.

Ms. M. ISASI (Chile) explained that Chile's parliament would soon be adopting legislation to advance the protection of children and promotion of their rights, including through addressing trafficking and regularizing the status of foreign children in the country. Children who had been sexually exploited would not need to appear several times before a judge, which often induced further trauma and psychological damage; instead they would make only a single statement.

Many countries remained indifferent to the plight of children moving from country to country, many of whom even died as they travelled. Parliamentarians, as the representatives of the people, needed to fulfil their countries' obligations to ratify all international agreements to protect children. There was no point in attending various meetings at the IPU or other international organizations if action was not taken to prevent children from suffering and dying as a result of hunger or violence. She added that she would be happy to share information on Chile's experiences and national legislation, as parliaments should cooperate to support all children.

Mr. S. AL KHATEEB (Syrian Arab Republic) reported that his country had committed to a number of international instruments on the rights of the child and assimilated the provisions into domestic legislation.

The current conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, which was exacerbated by Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, was depriving children of their rights. Schools had been occupied, for example, meaning that children could not access education. Children were also being used by terrorist groups and made to perpetrate horrible crimes, while others had been subject to abuse or sexual exploitation. All such acts ran counter to the various international conventions on protecting children and also to domestic legislation, which prohibited enlisting children in military operations.

Mr. B.V. NEATOBEI (Chad) said that the natural disasters, drought, social and political crises, and internal conflict in his country in recent years had led to the mass movement of people, with obvious repercussions for the social fibre of the country and for children. There were various causes of child migration, but often it was a case of forced migration and the need to flee violence, chaos, or poverty. Those child migrants were especially vulnerable.

Chad had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and other international instruments, with the aim of taking all the necessary legislative and other measures to ensure the protection, development and survival of children.

Mrs. F. ALIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the causes of migration, conditions in destination countries, and the economic consequences of migrants' integration into society were all key aspects of the issue under discussion. Migration had a considerable impact on families and children, large numbers of whom faced difficulties regarding their education and physical and psychological health. Unaccompanied migrant children faced even greater challenges and it was the responsibility of all communities to pay special attention to the needs of those children.

The Islamic Republic of Iran had hosted millions of refugees from neighbouring countries over the previous three decades. The country had sought to protect the rights of migrant children through acceding to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict and signing other relevant bilateral agreements. Domestic legislation sought to ensure education for migrant children and, at present, more than 250,000 were studying in Iranian schools. The country remained committed to promoting the physical and psychological recovery and social integration of migrant children.

Ms. MO WENXIU (China) underscored the important role of parliaments in protecting the rights and interests of children, particularly regarding health, nutrition, education, and legal protection. All children should be guaranteed the right to education, regardless of gender, and schools should help to provide appropriate environments for children's protection and development. Bans on child labour and exploitation were also crucial.

China had always attached great importance to promoting children's rights and interests and in recent decades had taken various measures to ensure the necessary legal guarantees and protection to children, through legislation on education, health and sanitation, protection of minors and prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Mr. M. BUNDUKJI (Jordan) said that parliaments needed to take effective measures in cooperation with governments to protect the rights of children. Such measures could include adapting national legislation to the relevant international instruments on human rights and the rights of children; conducting studies and consultations with all parties involved in protecting children's rights; ensuring appropriate government procedures and policies in the area of children's rights; strengthening ties between parliaments and other organizations concerned with the welfare of children; and encouraging governments to combat all forms of poverty.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) underscored the importance of agreeing a robust resolution that would help to protect children worldwide. As a member of the IPU's Committee on Middle East Questions, she recalled a recent mission to Israel and Palestine, including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and stressed the need to move from talking to acting when it came to helping Palestinian children and protecting their rights, through the provision of food, health care and social services.

Children worldwide were at risk of abuse, neglect, violence, exploitation and trafficking, especially those who were separated from their families. Parliamentarians needed to help ensure that those vulnerable children were protected.

Mr. S. NTAPANE (South Africa) said that South Africa was a party to several international and regional treaties on protecting the rights of children, including unaccompanied migrant children and the country's Constitution and Bill of Rights sought that same objective. Several laws also helped to protect those rights, including the Refugees Act and the Immigration Act. Any refugee child should be brought before a children's court and could be assisted in applying for asylum. The country's Children's Act further helped to ensure the general welfare of children and included provisions applicable to unaccompanied migrant children.

Mr. A.-C. MITU (Romania) stressed the key role of parliamentarians in ensuring that the needs of unaccompanied migrant children were met in national laws and policies, including through giving due regard to gender dimensions. Romania had adopted legislation that was in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaties. The legal framework was regularly updated to respond to the needs of children affected by exploitation, trafficking and illegal migration. In order to protect and promote the rights of all children, the relevant laws were applicable not only to Romanian nationals within Romanian territory, but also to those Romanian nationals residing abroad, children without citizenship on Romanian soil, children requesting protection as refugees in Romania, and other foreign children on Romanian soil in emergency situations.

Mr. G. KONSTANTOPOULOS (Greece) observed that the existing legislative framework for child protection in his country was not adequate enough to address the particular needs of child migrants arriving in Greece unaccompanied by parents or caregivers. Often those children were not accurately identified upon their arrival in Greece. He recommended that all countries ensure accurate identification and registration of unaccompanied children; establish a special registry for dealing with unaccompanied children; increase the capacity of reception centres; and provide unhindered access to education for unaccompanied children. A single coordination body should also be established to evaluate the current situation and ensure effective cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders, which could also propose appropriate measures for protecting children and their rights.

Ms. A.A. AL QUBAISI (United Arab Emirates) said that there were increasing numbers of children migrating, all at risk of having their human rights violated, contrary to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, through violence, sexual abuse, forced labour or forced involvement in military activities. Her country had made considerable efforts to protect children, including through legislation prohibiting trafficking and the provision of necessary social, economic and humanitarian assistance to children. Campaigns had been run throughout the country to raise awareness of various aspects of children's rights and encourage education. Resources had also been allocated for the provision of clean water to children, not only in the United Arab Emirates but also in other countries, including the Syrian Arab Republic.

Ms. L.T. TAU LIN (Malaysia) urged all parliamentarians to pass specific legislative and policy measures aimed at protecting migrant children and preventing their exploitation, including by involving local authorities. To ensure adequate funding, public funds should be taken from corporations involved in the nuclear weapons industry.

Parliaments and the IPU should work closely with the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and other relevant parties and should issue public statements urging countries in conflict to end the use of children in the armed forces. Ministries of foreign affairs and defence should prioritize the protection and promotion of children's rights.

Parliaments should seek to disseminate information packages on the rights of the child and guidelines on protecting children to all relevant actors and should also actively encourage the establishment of local child protection networks.

Mrs. A. WOLDESEMAYAT ESHETE (Ethiopia) reported that her country had taken significant measures to assimilate the Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic legislation, which recognized the full range of civil, social, and economic rights of children. Her Government had facilitated access by refugees from neighbouring countries to higher education and employment in Ethiopia and provided schooling for children in refugee camps.

Mr. T. YAHYA (Indonesia) said that there was no place for violence against or attacks or assaults on children at any time, whether in war or peace. In situations of war and conflict, however, children were the most vulnerable segment of the population, often suffering trauma, exploitation and displacement. It was crucial that their rights and safety were protected in compliance with the Geneva Conventions and other international instruments. Indonesia had committed to protecting and fulfilling the human rights of children, including migrants, through its national laws.

When a tsunami had hit Indonesia a decade previously, the country had worked to protect tsunami-affected children from trauma, exploitation and the risk of being trafficked out of the country. The international community needed to continue working to ensure that the safety and security of all child victims of emergency situations were protected, especially the 1 million Syrian child refugees who had been uprooted from their homeland.

Ms. A. RAZA FAROOQ (Pakistan) said that her country recognized all the principles embodied by UNICEF and enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Constitution provided for compulsory education up to 16 years and slavery, human trafficking, and forced labour were all prohibited.

As children were the most vulnerable group in any society, there was a dire need to harmonize legislative and policy efforts among States to stop the rise in the violation of children's rights. As a result of the conflicts and wars in the region, Pakistan hosted nearly 3 million refugees from Afghanistan, a considerable proportion of whom were under 14 years of age. She urged the international community to cooperate with Pakistan through strong political will and parliamentary oversight to promote the well-being and rights of those children, especially while Pakistan remained on the frontline of the war on terrorism.

Ms. C. NABWALA (Kenya) stated that it was important for national immigration laws to be informed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which provided the international framework for addressing the needs of unaccompanied migrant children. It enshrined key principles of non-discrimination, and the rights to life, survival and development but above all of those was the defining principle of promoting the best interests of the child.

Kenya had taken steps to integrate those principles into domestic law, including provisions to guarantee the protection of children seeking refugee status and to safeguard the interests of children. She underscored the need to enact legislation and policies aimed at protecting those children who were most at risk.

Ms. I. AL-WAZIR (Palestine) said that, under the occupation of her country, many children suffered through being separated from their parents, from exploitation, or from being imprisoned. There were at present over 30,000 children in Israeli prisons who had no access to their families or lawyers and were deprived of an education. Some were also tortured. She underscored the need for the effective protection of all children affected by the occupation, as well as for those who had migrated to the Syrian Arab Republic and, as a result of the conflict there, had been forced to move on again to Lebanon and other countries.

Mr. I. KOOHEJI (Bahrain) stated that parliaments around the world needed to implement laws prohibiting the involvement of children in what were usually described as peaceful demonstrations but where those children were often at risk of violence and being used as human shields. After such events, many children suffered damaging psychological effects. Bahrain had implemented such a law, whereby anybody found bringing a child to a demonstration could be imprisoned, and hoped others around the world would too.

Ms. R. BENMASSAOUD (Morocco) said that Morocco had enshrined the promotion of children's interests in its Constitution and had created a national entity to oversee the protection of children's rights. The parliament had taken steps to harmonize domestic legislation with relevant international instruments and had recently put forward bills on strengthening the protection of children and criminalizing human trafficking.

There were also national initiatives to regularize the situation of migrants, particularly as Morocco was both a transit and destination country. She called on other countries, especially those in Europe, to cooperate with Morocco to ensure that appropriate security measures were in place and other relevant coordinated action was taken, particularly to ensure that migrant children were protected.

Mr. K. KIYINGI BBOSA (Uganda) said that parliamentarians had a clear legislative role to play in ensuring that children were protected in war and conflict, based in part on provisions defined by UNICEF. There were various legislative measures in Uganda aimed at such protection, including the Constitution, the Penal Code and a National Council for Children. Parliamentarians represented the people and were uniquely placed to give voice to the concerns and needs of their constituents, including refugee children. It was also essential that parliaments held the executive to account, ensuring the effective implementation of laws and policies on protecting children.

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) reported that the International Organization for Migration was working closely with civil society organizations in Zimbabwe to address the problems faced by migrant children. Zimbabwe had ratified international instruments on the rights of children and integrated their provisions into domestic law. The Constitution addressed several of the problems faced by affected children and included provisions for granting citizenship without any questions asked to all abandoned or unaccompanied children.

Mr. J. MWIIMBU (Zambia) said that in many countries the rights of children were taken for granted and laws for child protection were often violated. Parliaments needed to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of children in all situations if the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child were to be upheld. To do so, parliaments needed to develop legislation guaranteeing the protection of children and their rights; enshrine child protection in national constitutions; assimilate relevant international instruments into domestic laws; oversee government action to ensure children's rights were protected; and allocate resources for such protection.

Ms. H. ESUENE (Nigeria) said that children constituted about 35 per cent of Nigeria's population, so the government was very aware of the issue of child protection and had enacted legislation prohibiting the trafficking of persons, ensuring children's rights and providing free and compulsory education. There were, however, still many challenges, including the need for legislators to bring an end to the practice of families sending young children to religious leaders for instruction in Islam. They were often never able to reunite with their families and were denied basic rights, including education; many were also recruited by criminal groups. Nigeria welcomed ideas on how to address the issue.

Mr. C. ABELA (Malta) remarked that, as the mid-way point between North Africa and Europe and the southern border of the European Union, Malta faced a large and steady influx of immigrants and was particularly concerned about unaccompanied migrant children. The country received unaccompanied minors in accordance with its international obligations but appealed for coordinated action among all countries of origin and destination, as the latter could not always deal with migrant children alone, especially when the necessary resources were lacking. All countries needed to share the responsibility in order to guarantee the rights of every child.

Mr. J.R. LEÓN RIVERA (Peru) urged the Committee to take a firm position on how to address the issue of a new generation of children turning to delinquency and growing up to become paid killers. The law in Peru currently imposed criminal penalties on those aged 18 years and above but the parliament was struggling to reduce that age to 15 years. He hoped that the IPU would help to provide a solution to the issue.

Mr. G. MOHABA MESU (Equatorial Guinea) said that it was difficult to speak about children without mentioning their parents since, if parents were in a good situation then their children would also be. While his country did not face situations of exploitation of children or of war, it did face illegal immigration. The IPU should urge countries to reduce the requirements for visas, as a large portion of illegal immigration came as a result of the restrictions imposed by western countries.

Ms. B. ALJESHI (Arab Parliament) stressed the role of human rights organizations in protecting the rights of children, especially in situations of conflict. Those organizations did not always act effectively to protect children from being used as human shields. Those children could often not prove their innocence and were then punished and denied the right to education.

She expressed concern that there were still some Arab parliaments that, despite having ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, had still not harmonized its provisions with domestic legislation. She reported that there were, however, plans to develop a multilateral Arab instrument on that issue.

Ms. U. KARLSSON (Sweden), speaking in her capacity as a member of the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, recounted a recent mission to countries that were hosting Syrian refugees, including more than a million child refugees. In Jordan, the group had met refugees who had fled the Syrian Arab Republic that same evening.

A robust resolution was needed to protect children, especially those refugees who were suffering as a result of a lack of health care and education, as well as exposure to abuse and sexual violence. The resolution also needed to emphasize the rule of law and condemn the many child marriages that were being allowed to occur in the camps, which affected more than a third of the girls under the age of 18 years.

Dr. M. MATTAR, Panellist, took note of the general consensus that he had heard during the discussion. It was clear that countries had recognized the many problems relating to migrant children and many parliamentarians were acting to address them. He proposed that the resolution should include not only a study on the full scope of the problem but also a review of existing mechanisms in countries, including the various laws that had been outlined on child protection, child labour and child trafficking. The key question would be to what extent those mechanisms were actually helping to resolve the issues experienced by child migrants and children in conflict situations?

It was obvious that child migration was a transnational problem and all countries, whether they were countries of origin, transit or destination required the resolution to contain clear provisions on international cooperation. He recalled the various mentions of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and underscored that such regional instruments were also crucial to cooperation. All countries had an obligation to cooperate with NGOs, as grass-root organizations which most often worked on the ground and understood the issues at hand.

There had been several comments on the issues of trafficking, child labour, sexual exploitation, children being used in civil and political conflict, and of children in occupied territories or in other conflict situations. It was essential that the resolution included clear definitions on vulnerability, conflict and exploitation, so that the full scope of the issue could be understood. If those aspects were not addressed, it would be impossible to address the overall subject of unaccompanied migrant children.

Ms. L. AUBIN, Panellist, said that she had been struck by the willingness expressed by speakers to ensure that best practices and experiences were shared so that common areas of risk could be identified and all systems could work together to protect children. The need for a resolution on the issue of migrant children and children in conflict situations was, sadly, a sign of the times, as many children continued to be put at risk as they fled humanitarian emergencies, persecution or war. Ensuring access to education, health care, and general protection services for all children at such times was an imperative, although it should not be forgotten that public services would require additional support to absorb the extra needs of those children.

The principle of non-discrimination should also be employed in favour of asylum-seeking children and refugee and migrant children. However, appropriate civil documentation, such as birth certificates, was essential if children were to access those services, and the early identification of children travelling alone was of particular importance.

It was clear that the test of any legislation enacted in countries for the protection of children was in its implementation and parliaments should work to ensure that the necessary services were sufficiently funded, essential staff were trained, and that there was coherence and coordination among service providers.

Ms. J. NASSIF, co-Rapporteur, said that, despite countries all having their own legislation aimed at protecting children, it was clear that it was not enough to stop the violation and abuse which continued in different parts of the world. With the risk of new situations of conflict arising at any time as a result of political or social changes, parliamentarians needed to be aware of the importance of taking decisions when they had the chance in forums such as the IPU Assembly. She hoped that all delegates would continue to cooperate with the co-Rapporteurs on the issue in the coming months.

Ms. G. CUEVAS, co-Rapporteur, underscored the importance of strong political will to do something for the children on which the discussion had focused. The overriding question was: If countries had ratified so many international instruments, why was it not sufficient to stop the suffering faced by unaccompanied migrant children? Preparing legislation was an important first step but it was essential that parliamentarians ensured that such legislation was effectively implemented, and indeed amended if necessary, to provide real solutions to the problems.

Although data was often hard to obtain, the resolution would need to outline as far as possible the current reality. That would depend on support from all parliamentarians in providing information on the legal frameworks and the risks faced by children in each country. Another consideration was what did the Committee hope the resolution would achieve? Emphasis should be placed on eliminating the criminalization of migration and the detention of child migrants. Deportation also needed to be prohibited to stop thousands of children being returned to dangerous situations on a daily basis. To ensure such provisions worked in practice, it was clear that effective supervision and monitoring systems would be needed. Parliamentarians therefore had a duty to look at how that could be achieved through appropriate legislation.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists, experts and parliamentarians for sharing their experiences and ideas for the resolution that would be developed.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

MEETING OF YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE IPU

Sitting of Tuesday, 8 October (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m. with Mr. K. Dijkhoff (Netherlands) in the Chair.

The CHAIR drew attention to the supporting documentation for the meeting and took it that the participants agreed to the proposed agenda contained therein. He explained that the Governing Council would decide whether to establish the group as a permanent forum during the current Assembly. The resulting Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU would then be able to set its own rules and working modalities. Discussion of those proposed rules could take place after the decision of the Governing Council or during the present meeting. It would be more efficient to do so now, so that once they were approved at the 130th Assembly, the focus could shift to more substantive work.

Objectives and activities of the young parliamentarians of the IPU

There was general agreement regarding the proposed mandate, objectives and working modalities for the Forum. With regard to composition, a number of options for an upper age limit of members had been proposed, namely 35, 40 or 45 years. Given that the average age of a member of parliament throughout the world was 53 years of age, the Chair observed that an upper age limit of 35 years was very young and could limit the relevance of the Forum. A number of speakers considered 45 to be a logical upper age limit as the age limits for representatives in different Member Parliaments varied widely and that age would result in a varied forum. In addition, if the age limit was set too low, attendance in meetings of the Forum would be limited and the experience brought to the Forum by those aged between 40 and 45 would be highly beneficial to its work. However, some delegates suggested that 45 was too high and that 40 years of age would be more suitable, particularly as other international forums, such as the World Economic Forum, stipulated that their youth leaders should be below the age of 40. In addition, there were concerns that if the upper age limit was 45 years, then the Forum would be dominated by parliamentarians that were close to that limit, thereby making it difficult for younger members to participate. It was suggested by one speaker that the age limit should be 40 years, but that allowances could be made for delegations and Member Parliaments that did not have many younger members of parliament. Another speaker proposed that the age limit could be based on the individual circumstances of countries, namely that for each country the maximum age for attendance of meetings of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians would be the minimum age at which election to parliament was possible plus 10 years.

One speaker wondered how difficult it would be to change the age limit in future if it proved to be limiting or unsuitable for the working of the Forum. If the forum was successful in adding a youth perspective to all deliberations of the IPU, it was likely that more young parliamentarians would be included in Member delegations and therefore the average age of attendees would fall; at that point, it might be necessary to change the upper age limit for attending meetings of the Forum to ensure wider and more representative participation. In response, the CHAIR explained that any amendments to the rules in future would require the approval of the Governing Council. Other speakers added that it was more important to decide upon clear goals and a roadmap for the activities of the Forum rather than focusing on a minor issue such as the age of the participants; the age limits could be decided upon at a

later date. Given the lack of consensus on the issue, a vote was held on the upper age limit for participants and it was agreed that that limit would be set at 45 years of age. The Chair stressed that although the age limit was 45, any one could attend the meetings of the Forum as an observer.

Turning to other elements, it was agreed that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians would have an elected bureau known as the Board, which would replace the current Task Force of Young Parliamentarians. The other proposals, related to rapporteurs, agenda, reports and the Secretariat, were also accepted by the meeting.

Any other business

One speaker said that it was important that once the Forum was established, it could be used as a driver for change in national political systems. She also highlighted that the 18th World Festival for Youth and Students would be held in her country, Ecuador, in December 2013, and encouraged all participants to attend. Together with some other speakers, she also expressed hope that the upper age limit for participants in the Forum could be lowered in future.

A number of speakers observed that youth participation was a fundamental aspect of democracy; one explained that their country enjoyed extremely high voter turnout among young people and those voters were often more inclined to vote for younger candidates, while another said that more needed to be done to encourage young people to get involved in political, social and cultural activities and a third speaker gave examples of youth training programmes in her country. Several delegates added that the proposed forum would help to ensure that young parliamentarians were able to fully participate in the deliberations of the IPU and expressed appreciation for the continued support of the Secretary General in that regard. It was suggested that more senior members of parliament should be encouraged to guide and mentor younger members; one speaker added that his country had a forum of young parliamentarians at the national level, which was a positive step. The CHAIR said that collaboration and cooperation between national forums and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians should be encouraged.

The CHAIR, thanking speakers for their input, said that it would be useful for participants to consider whether they would like to be involved in intersessional work of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians; the official Board would be elected at a later date but a small working group was needed to continue the work until that time. In addition, funding had been received from the Worldwide Support for Development to support the future work of the Forum.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

**Panel discussion on Addressing internal displacement:
The responsibility of parliaments**

Sitting of Tuesday, 8 October

(Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m. with Mr. A. Radi, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT introduced the joint IPU-UNHCR Handbook entitled Internal Displacement: Responsibility and Action, which had been developed to help countries formulate a domestic framework and legislation to protect and help internally displaced persons (IDPs) and to raise awareness of the issue among their populations. In 2012, there had been more than 28 million IDPs in 61 countries and the numbers were continuing to rise as a result of war, natural disasters and violence. IDPs were extremely vulnerable to abuse and violence in poor living conditions, thus having a significant impact on the region that hosted them. As States were responsible for the protection of their own citizens, parliaments had an important role to play in ensuring that the rights of IDPs were respected. He introduced the panellists: Mr. J. Riera, Senior Adviser, Division of International Protection, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); Mr. E. Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya; and Mr. A. Zamudio, Director of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

Presentation

Mr. J. RIERA, Panellist, explained that the Handbook sought to enhance the role of members of parliament in the prevention of forced disappearances and the creation of an effective national protection system for IDPs. The ongoing conflicts in countries such as Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, the Philippines and Syrian Arab Republic continued to displace civilians from their homes. In the Syrian Arab Republic alone, it was estimated that there were 5 million IDPs in addition to the large number of refugees that had fled to neighbouring countries. IDPs were a particularly vulnerable group as they had usually lost their lands; been cut off from their livelihoods and therefore source of income; had limited access to essential services such as food, water, health care and education; and had often experienced a breakdown in family and community structures. In addition, they often faced hostility and resentment from local communities. The primary responsibility for IDPs lay with their home States and parliaments had a crucial role to play therein. UNHCR was active in a number of countries, where it provided assistance to IDPs while facing a number of constraints and challenges, particularly limited funding and the lack of a dedicated partner agency active on the issue of IDPs. Although progress had been made in some countries, with over 1 million IDPs having returned home in Yemen and more than 200,000 returns in Iraq, the picture was often mixed with the return of some communities leading to the displacement of others, and protracted displacement continuing in the Balkans and countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia. UNHCR was engaged with development partners on the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's Policy Committee Decision No. 2011/20 on Durable Solutions in three pilot countries - Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire and Kyrgyzstan - and had encouraged all States to make changes to their policies and legislation on stateless people and IDPs. Lastly, he welcomed the adoption of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) and expressed the hope that other regions in the world would adopt similar agreements.

Mr. E. ETHURO, Panellist, observed that although it was the responsibility of countries to protect the human rights of their citizens, those States with large numbers of IDPs were often experiencing conflict and were therefore politically weak and unable to cope with the challenges created by IDPs. Addressing the issue of IDPs was at the heart of peacebuilding efforts and it was important that steps were taken to help IDPs in post-conflict countries and those in transition. In Africa, countries had adopted the Kampala Convention and many had developed policies on IDPs but more needed to be done. Parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in the matter through legislative action. In Kenya, violence after disputed elections in 2007 had led to high numbers of IDPs. Although the police had played a key role in mobilizing peace, deadlines for IDPs to be returned home were not met and the Kenyan Parliament had decided to take action, including the establishment of mandatory rations of food and transparent resettlement and cash transfers for IDPs and a bill was brought before Parliament for discussion. It was vital that parliamentarians were aware of the IDP populations in their countries and familiar with the guiding principles on IDPs and the relevant international humanitarian, human rights and criminal laws and treaties and the obligations contained therein. They should also consider how all national laws would affect the situation of and pose challenges to IDPs.

Mr. A. ZAMUDIO, Panellist, explained that his organization was the global leader in monitoring and analysing of issues related to IDPs. The IPU-UNHCR Handbook highlighted the importance of engaging with civil society when developing legislation on internal displacement, although such engagement would be dependent on the framework or policy the individual country had in place to help IDPs. Civil society organizations (CSOs) often had specialized knowledge and were well-placed to play a monitoring and advocacy role. IDPs themselves should also be involved in decision-making processes as they could provide valuable information on their situation which would help to ensure that the legislation was relevant. CSOs that had close relations with IDPs could help to organize meetings to facilitate that involvement. The IDMC had organized training sessions in a number of countries, including Kenya and Liberia, in order to raise awareness of the Kampala Convention, using a two-pronged approach targeting legislators and CSOs in order to stimulate the involvement of both parties. The main challenge in terms of the Kampala Convention was its implementation. That was where CSOs could provide advice to ensure that legislation and policies contained concrete actions to help IDPs. It should be noted that by addressing the situation of IDPs, States could also improve the economy and well-being of the country as a whole.

Debate

Many participants welcomed the launch of the IPU-UNHCR Handbook and acknowledged that more needed to be done to assist IDPs. One speaker observed that national authorities needed to take steps to address the violations of human rights and humanitarian law often experienced by IDPs and to punish those responsible under criminal law. The international community could play an important role, but only with the permission of the country involved, which should assume the primary responsibility. Ultimately though, it was important to solve the root causes of internal displacement, although it should also be noted that the situation and cause of IDPs varied from country to country and included natural disasters, terrorism, and conflicts and wars with both internal and external causes.

Other speakers added that financial resources were vital to address the situation of IDPs. Funds could be raised through taxes or through voluntary contributions by countries to a fund organized by the United Nations or a CSO. In addition, it was crucial to find a way to ensure that the educational needs of internally displaced children were met and to address the discrimination faced by IDPs. Moreover, the IPU should encourage Member Parliaments to strengthen their policies and legislation on IDPs. Local governments should provide assistance

to IDPs arriving in their constituencies and national governments should also take steps to protect the property left by IDPs to enable them to return in future.

Two participants expressed concern at the situation of IDPs in Palestine and the surrounding area, where people continued to be displaced by the actions of one country and IDPs were denied the right to return or to compensation and lived in fear of further displacement and without health and social support.

The delegate from JAPAN explained that his district had received a large number of IDPs following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami and had experienced many challenges in addressing their needs; decontamination screening for all IDPs had been necessary and the primary evacuation centre had been a school gymnasium, which was not a suitable place for people to live. Steps had been taken to provide and build suitable housing for the IDPs, although some had voluntarily returned to the Fukushima area, where radiation levels were safe.

Other participants also drew attention to measures in their countries to provide assistance to IDPs, including the adoption of legislation, the distribution of rations and coupons, the establishment of parliamentary taskforces, resettlement programmes, cooperation with civil society, the provision of shelter and basic services, and activities to ensure that IDPs were able to exercise the right to vote and to participate in public life. In one country, tribal leaders were also being engaged to help raise awareness of the problems faced by IDPs and that country's Constitution included provisions guaranteeing the rights of displaced persons.

One speaker also expressed concern at the actions of another State in her country, which had led to a large number of IDPs; the illegal activities of that State, including the construction of barbed wire fences in the occupied territory, was having a significant impact on the rights of IDPs, particularly with regard to education and health care. A further speaker said that the actions of terrorists in his country made it difficult for the government to provide aid to those displaced by conflict in the country; a number of speakers suggested that more needed to be done to stem foreign interference in the affairs of other countries, which often exacerbated the situation of IDPs.

Another speaker asked Mr. Ethuro whether Kenya had distinguished between IDPs and refugees in its activities. He also asked whether the increasing numbers of IDPs throughout the world was the result of growing numbers of conflicts or the inability of the international community to address the issue.

Mr. J. RIERA, Panellist, welcomed the comments made by participants, particularly on the primary role of the home country both at the national and local levels; the different root causes of displacement; and the importance of focusing on a number of elements, such as addressing the underlying causes of the problem, compensation for victims and ensuring that the rights of IDPs were respected. The next annual dialogue on protection challenges organized by UNHCR would focus on the protection of IDPs and would be a good opportunity to discuss the challenges and develop new ideas on how to address the problem. Political and legislative will were vital.

Mr. E. ETHURO, Panellist, observed that it was important to consider the situation of IDPs in countries that did not acknowledge their presence. Acknowledgement of the existence of IDPs was crucial if countries were to be able to work with government agencies, national human rights bodies, UN agencies and civil society organizations (CSO) to address the situation. Responding to the question regarding whether his country had distinguished between refugees and IDPs in its approach, he explained that the situation in Kenya had been different as it related to a specific cause of internal displacement: post-election violence.

However, the lessons learned from that situation had been analysed and could be used to address the situation of all displaced persons.

Mr. A. ZAMUDIO, Panellist, said that although IDPs were primarily the responsibility of the home country that fact could be limiting if the country concerned did not have an appropriate legislative framework in place to protect IDPs. Members of parliament were well-placed to take action using the guiding principles and the Handbook as reference material; IDMC and UNHCR could also help with training sessions. In response to the question posed by one participant, he said that the increasing numbers of IDPs were partly the result of better data collection.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.

**Panel discussion on Political party control over parliamentarians:
Striking the right balance**

Sitting of Tuesday, 8 October
(Afternoon)

The panel discussion was opened at 2.35 p.m., with Mr. M. Gonzi (Malta), in the Chair as Moderator.

The MODERATOR, setting the scene for the panel discussion, posed two questions prompted by situations of relevance to the topic that had occurred in the Maltese Parliament and provided food for thought. First, was it appropriate for a country's first-ever divorce law to have been enacted on the strength of a private member's bill, meaning that there had been no preliminary discussion of such an important bill within a parliamentary group? Second, was it right for a member of parliament to join in a vote of no-confidence against a minister from his party and should a government take action against any member who unexpectedly took such action, particularly where the minister concerned had been compelled to resign as a result of the outcome of the vote? He also drew attention to an interesting IPU study on the topic, entitled *The impact of political party control over the exercise of the parliamentary mandate*, which could be obtained from the IPU in both hard and soft copies. He then presented the three panellists and invited them to make introductory remarks before opening up the discussion to the floor.

Mr. J.C. MAHÍA (Uruguay), Panellist, said that it was always difficult to strike a balance between political party control and the freedom of conscience of individual legislators. As far as possible, he and his fellow members of Uruguay's ruling party sought to toe the party line, which was sometimes broken nonetheless as a result of differing ideological and other views. He hoped that his experience of having been on both sides of the political divide during his 19 years as a member of parliament would qualify him to respond to issues raised during the discussion.

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda), Panellist, speaking in her capacity as a party whip, explained that her role was to ensure that members voted in accordance with the party policy on contentious issues and were in attendance when votes were being taken. Members had the opportunity to voice dissent during internal party discussions but were expected to toe the party line on the parliamentary floor. In Uganda, members who had been expelled from a party for not doing so were currently contesting their expulsion in court on the grounds that their dissent had been in the interest of representing their constituents, which they argued was their first priority. In the direct voting system, members who regularly disappointed their constituents by toeing the party line were frequently unable to hold their seats in subsequent elections. It would therefore be preferable if members were allowed some leeway to differ from the party line on certain issues. Members expelled from a party could not, however, be compelled by law to vacate their parliamentary seats and attempts to seek temporary injunctions banning so-called rebel members from entry to the House had consequently failed.

The MODERATOR added that questions raised by such situations, including that of the free speech of parliamentarians, were explored in the study to which he had referred earlier.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ (France), Panellist, said that internal party conflicts could arise at any level. In the French system, for example, a candidate whose nomination met with internal opposition could still choose to stand and might, if elected, be allowed back into the party fold if its rules so provided, which was not always the case. In the latter event, the candidate might decide to ally with another party espousing similar views. Dilemmas inevitably arose for

members of the ruling party who favoured solutions or policies other than those advocated by the government. In such cases, dissenters tended to keep the peace in the face of public expressions of support for a policy, taking into consideration the fact that parliamentarians were elected as representatives of their party and that it was desirable to maintain their collective strength by remaining united. Principles enshrined in the French Constitution included the contribution of political parties and groups to the exercise of suffrage, their equitable participation in the country's democratic life and the expression of diverse opinions. Parliamentarians were therefore free agents with no compulsory mandate and sometimes decided, with varying degrees of success, to take the risk of seeking support in the House concerning matters on which they differed with their party. It was nonetheless worthwhile for parliamentarians to keep in mind the source of their nominations, legitimacy, authority and collective spirit.

The MODERATOR, pondering the odds of a candidate being elected without political party backing, invited participants to provide input to the discussion.

Mr. J. PAL (India) said that Indian parliamentarians were elected by their constituencies and enjoyed the right to freedom of expression under the Constitution but were generally whipped into toeing the party line. The Speaker alone had the authority to decide, if requested to do so, whether or not those party members who disobeyed the whip should be required to vacate their seats.

Mr. P. GYLYS (Lithuania) related that, in his country, members could be expelled from parties but not from parliament. Left- and right-wing parties in post-Soviet countries such as Lithuania were increasingly indistinguishable and interparty migration was consequently high, especially during pre-election periods. Political stability and direction were difficult to maintain in such a climate, with the tendency of dominant groups to monopolize the party line posing a further risk. While likely to diminish with time, such problems were detrimental to the country's political diversity and trajectory.

Mr. I. KANKE (Japan), speaking as a parliamentarian from the Fukushima region where he had held mayoral office at the time of the nuclear accident there, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the warm international support provided to his country in its ongoing efforts to deal with the aftermath of that accident. The theme of the present discussion assumed particular importance in the light of diverse social norms and values, not to mention the choices beyond official party policy lines with which parliamentarians were often confronted. The failure of the previous Japanese Government to introduce redevelopment measures accommodating the diverse needs of the inhabitants of the Fukushima region had been so severely criticized as to become a major election issue and the government had consequently been voted out of power. It was now his role to communicate the reality of those needs to the new ruling party of which he was a member. Another problem had been the negative rumours circulating in the wake of the nuclear disaster. He felt it important to share with participants a scientific fact, namely that the radiation dosimeter readings he had just taken in Narita and Geneva airports were identical.

Mr. G. SCHNEEMAN (South Africa) reported that South African parliamentarians were elected through the party list system based on proportional representation and were therefore accountable to their parties; they could not claim to represent a particular constituency. The whip system was also used to ensure party discipline. Seldom would members break the party line and only then with the permission of their party. Members who did otherwise were subject to expulsion from their party, with possible loss of their parliamentary seat, or to other disciplinary measures. A free vote was occasionally permitted in the case of highly controversial issues. The previous floor-crossing system under which parliamentarians could change parties or form new parties without any legitimate mandate to do so was now banned.

The only other alternative was resignation. Members were obliged to support all decisions taken in the parliamentary caucuses where important issues were discussed prior to voting. It was intriguing that parliamentarians in a constituency-based system could justify voting with the opposition by arguing that they had been elected by their constituents, given that they may well not have been elected at all without the party ticket. There was no one-size-fits-all system, however; it was for each country and party to decide which system to implement.

The MODERATOR pointed out that a party might likewise never be elected without the participation of its members.

Mr. S. JAISMUT (Thailand) observed that political parties were the vital ingredient of any democracy; they were the channels representing the political will of the people, whose political aims were generally achieved through their members of parliament. Although there were parties without democracy, there was no democracy without parties. Under the Thai Constitution, one of the eligibility criteria for parliamentary candidates was that their political party membership must have been confined to a single party for a consecutive period before the election day. Political parties were also permitted to control their members on condition of observing the free mandate principle. Parliamentarians were bound by the rules of procedure of their respective parties but were nonetheless entitled to represent the nation as a whole and to act in accordance with their sense of right and wrong.

Mr. R.-D. DEL PICCHIA (France) said that democracy must be well organized in order to function effectively and that countries opted for their systems of choice on the basis of such factors as culture and tradition. French democracy was premised on the freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution and members of parliament were thus free to express their opinions and vote accordingly, while at the same time remaining mindful of democratic gains. Such freedom was vital in instances where a parliamentarian might be conditioned by social conscience to vote against the party line on a certain issue, without being subjected to any party-based dictatorship. As a parliamentarian who had initially been elected on a non-partisan ticket, his experience was that he could have a greater impact through alignment with a particular party group. There was no reason not to vote in favour of good legislation. The bottom line therefore was that freedom and the public interest must take precedence over all other considerations.

Mr. G. MONDE (Zambia) expressed the view that political parties must relax control over their members insofar as parliamentarians represented not only their parties but also the individuals who had voted for them. Political parties were merely vehicles to a parliament where members must deliver on the needs of those individuals. Moreover, party interests frequently differed from those of constituents seeking better access to health, education and other facilities, with the former often acting primarily with an eye to winning the next election. The people's interest must take precedence and political parties must therefore be sufficiently liberal to allow their members the freedom to exercise their powers and minds in decision-making.

The MODERATOR commented that for a parliamentarian to voice the concerns of constituents against the party line was an instant recipe for conflict.

Mr. J.R. LEÓN RIVERA (Peru) spoke of the need to rebuild parliaments in view of their unfavourable reputation in many countries of being bound by personalities, which prevented them from playing their full institutional role and undermined their authority. Parliamentary divisions were caused when members voted against their party line and groups lobbied in their own interests. As part of proposed changes in the Peruvian system, preferential voting was to be removed to make way for the constituency as the basis for votes, resulting in fewer divisions and a stronger institutional foundation that enhanced democratic progress. The

action of dissenting against the party line was tantamount to defection and a betrayal of the public will, which was incompatible with the vocation. In a nutshell, individuals should be elected to parliament on the basis of their political grouping and not as independents.

The MODERATOR cautioned against the use of language associating publicly elected officials with defection and betrayal.

Mr. J. MAKRADULI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that, unlike in previous years, parliamentarians in his country were now elected from a party list. In young and emerging democracies, leaders must be afforded the opportunity to create an enabling environment with a view to the future. An example in his country related to the Ohrid Framework Agreement, signed in 2001 by leaders of all four main political parties in order to bring an end to inter-ethnic conflict. Public support for the Agreement had initially stood at only 4 per cent but had risen to 80 per cent following democratic debates on the issue, including among parties and with constituents, in addition to which the Agreement had been a key factor in the European Union decision to grant candidate status to the country. Inter-party democracy was therefore crucial to creating the right environment for progress such as that achieved through the Ohrid Framework Agreement.

Ms. R. KADAGA (Uganda), responding to the initial questions posed, stated her view that the right to move a private member's bill should stand, the reason being that objections to such bills could be raised on the second reading. Concerning action against dissenting party members, seats in the Ugandan parliament could be vacated only in specific instances, namely: resignation; a successful election petition; absence for more than 15 sittings; violation of the Leadership Code; recall by the electorate; and voluntary departure or floor-crossing. In her capacity as Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, she was currently defending in court her refusal of a request to expel members who had been ousted from their parties, citing as grounds the absence of any provision to that effect in the country's Constitution. She was a loyal party member, but a line must be drawn between party loyalty and loyalty to one's Constitution and country.

The MODERATOR posed a further question: how could an appropriate balance be struck between individual freedom and party discipline?

Ms. L. AL GAUD (Bahrain) remarked on the interesting but complex nature of the issue, given the varying systems applied in different societies. In her country, where she was the first woman ever to have been elected to parliament, freedom of expression was enshrined in the Constitution and parliamentarians were accordingly free to criticize the Government, refuse its plans and reject its members, which was a vital strand in the development of a parliamentary system introduced only in 2001. Parliamentarians who had differences of opinion with their political party or group could choose to resign and thus vacate their seats, provided that the resignation was accepted, but they could not otherwise be removed. Party interests should not be allowed to take precedence over the public good, as had happened in Bahrain when a progressive bill on women's and children's rights had been rejected, thereby denying potential benefits to thousands of citizens. It was therefore important to reflect thoroughly on the ideal means for serving the public interest first and foremost above all political party interests.

Mr. B. KUNBUOR (Ghana) said that the legitimacy of political party decisions that met with opposition should be verified, as compliance with the procedures for validating such decisions was all too frequently assumed. Under the parliamentary arrangements in place in Commonwealth countries, undemocratic decisions taken at the internal party level were not automatically binding and could be contested. In short, the correct fundamentals must be in place before proceeding to any consideration of national specifics. In the Ghanaian situation,

no parliamentarian could be compelled to engage in an unconstitutional act. Objections to party decisions could therefore be legitimately raised on the ground of unconstitutionality, although political stature enabled certain parliamentarians to get away with party treason nonetheless. In a recent episode that had caused major uproar in Ghanaian government, party and parliamentary circles, the appointment of a minister with liberal views on gay rights had ultimately been approved, despite majority opposition, on the strength of a winning argument that the expression of such views was neither illegal nor unconstitutional but rather in accordance with fundamental human rights principles. Parliamentarians who spoke out against undemocratic actions by their party, such as those intended to fuel racism or ethnic hatred, were likewise acting constitutionally and should not be removed from their seats.

Mr. B.V. NEATOBEI (Chad) reported that, pursuant to the Chadian Constitution, parliamentarians had a national mandate and could not therefore be disciplined for voting against their party. Parliamentarians elected on a party ticket who resigned from their party because of differences were also required to vacate their seats in parliament. The reason for that requirement was to prevent floor-crossing and political wheeling and dealing.

The MODERATOR suggested that participants might also wish to consider whether the parliamentary seats that they occupied belonged to them as individuals or to those who had voted them into office.

Mr. E. QUENUM (Benin) noted that political party control over parliamentarians was fundamental to the stability of both parliaments and political parties. In order to function effectively, a parliament must consist of both ruling and opposition parties enjoying internal stability through democratic debate aimed at finding a central position acceptable to all members, without the imposition of views by party leaders. The dilemma for parliamentarians lay in whether primarily to defend partisan or public interests, a decision ultimately dictated by their moral conscience. Oversight mechanisms were vital to monitoring the conduct of governments, which often attempted to escape parliamentary control in their quest to find ways of increasing their majority. In Africa, including Benin, intraparty democratization was a common problem in that political parties frequently abandoned the merit-based system of advancement in favour of nepotism and in contradiction of their public pronouncements of democracy. The result was to encourage party instability and aberrant behaviour on the part of some parliamentarians.

Mr. E.S. EL SIDDIG (Sudan) commented that the issue at stake was the rule of law, which parliamentarians must observe. Under the Sudanese Political Parties Act, parliamentarians who differed with their party were required to resign their seats in parliament but only after a justice committee had investigated the matter and reported back to parliament. As to party representatives, they were selected by the central party office on the basis of nominations received from electoral colleges at the constituency level. Parliamentarians were free to voice their opinions in internal party consultations and discussions but were expected thereafter to toe the party line, failing which a committee of inquiry could recommend their expulsion from the party.

Mr. K. DOUMBIA (Mali) said that, in Mali, there were no constitutional or legal provisions allowing for a person's removal from a parliamentary seat or a political party other than by death or resignation. The relationship between political parties and parliamentarians was complex insofar as a party's views generally reflected those of a specific group of members, if not the leader alone. It was regrettable that parliamentarians should be excluded from a party on the basis of a single vote when they had otherwise rendered valuable services to that party. He agreed with the view that parliamentarians should vote with their conscience on social issues, citing as an example the case of marriage equality bills, which would be

roundly rejected if tabled in his Parliament. Parties should preferably negotiate with members on issues that were liable to cause conflict.

The delegate from EL SALVADOR expressed the view that political parties often created situations of conflict for parliamentarians and should work harder at the internal level to ensure quality candidates who recognized the important institutional role of the party. In El Salvador, as in many other countries, parliamentary rights and obligations were derived from the Constitution. Some would prefer to see the political party role diminished in formal institutions, including parliament, with a view to weakening such institutions and facilitating their manipulation. It was the quality of parliaments and political party members that would smooth out differences between them.

Ms. S. NAKAWUKI (East African Legislative Assembly - EALA) related that her decision to turn independent after tiring of toeing the party line had cost her her seat in the Ugandan parliament. Under Uganda's multiparty dispensation, just over a decade old, parliamentary candidates were required to run under political party sponsorship, giving rise to a situation where party members might not even support their own candidates. In order to institute the necessary discipline among their members and retain the meaning of a multiparty system, parties must therefore be able to impose sanctions for gross misconduct or for deviation from party lines.

Mr. D. LOSIAKOU (Kenya) said that the question raised about the ownership of parliamentary seats lay at the heart of the issue and was a bone of contention in Kenya. The fact that Kenyan parliamentarians could be expelled by law from a party if they failed to toe the line indicated that they represented the party. At the same time, the ability of the electorate to recall parliamentarians under the Constitution would indicate that they represented the people and could be cited as an argument against expulsion from the party for reasons of dissent. Steps must therefore be taken to address the legal and political structures facilitating such a dichotomy. Lastly, members of the Kenyan Parliament were equal in the sense that government was not represented therein, which helped when it came to dealing with partisan issues.

Mr. P.F. CASINI (Italy) concluded from the debate that democracy in the absence of political parties could lead to anarchy dominated by vested interests and financial and other lobbies. Political parties were therefore essential but political parties without internal democracy lacked credibility and should not therefore be State-funded. Floor-crossing could not be criticized either in the absence of such democracy. Furthermore, party members should be entitled to vote with their conscience on important social and ethical issues. Parliamentarians were accountable to the voters and issues of conscience should not be subjected to party interference.

Mr. C. ABELA (Malta), first raising the issue of value placed on political stability, noted that the action of speaking against one's own political party, especially if it was the ruling party, carried with it the risk of destabilizing the country concerned. Second, the failure of a political party to comply with part of its electoral manifesto provided justification for its members to speak out against that party. Third, the Maltese Parliament for one did not often consult the people it represented before voting on important issues. Its members did, however, consult their parties and hold internal party discussions on such issues. While there was clearly no single solution for striking a right balance, it could be achieved through healthy discussions of that nature and through toeing the party line, although he agreed that parliamentarians should be free to make their own decisions on particularly delicate issues. The achievement of such a balance would serve countries, parties and constituents alike.

Mr. D. AZIZ (Pakistan) reported that the Pakistani Constitution provided for party defection only in three cases: a vote of confidence or no-confidence; a financial bill; and a constitutional amendment. The lengthy process involved, however, increased the potential for subversion of that provision. Another point was that, properly used, the committee system served as an important arena where dissent could be voiced and an able chairperson could successfully avert conflict. A further point was that the IPU could usefully work towards establishing a definition of undemocratic practice and a global consensus concerning acceptable and unacceptable behaviours in the interest of fine-tuning the legislative process. Lastly, intraparty democracy was imperative to ensuring that defection clauses were not used to perpetuate undemocratic practices by other means.

Mr. F. HOOHLO (Lesotho) said that the first-past-the-post system had long ensured one-party dominance in Lesotho until electoral reform in 1998, since one third of parliamentary seats had instead been allocated on the basis of proportional representation. The problem now was that the proportional list was closed for five years following its submission. Moreover, a parliamentary seat could be lost only through death or resignation. Striking a balance between constituency, personal and party representation was therefore a complex matter, as was the long and drawn-out process for reaching consensus in Lesotho's present three-party coalition Government. The electoral model was the key to striking that balance.

Mr. A. MISIEKABA (Suriname) noted that parliamentarians were expected by their parties to abandon all awareness and reason in the interest of going with the flow. There should, however, be room for opposition, even within a party, which must respect its members as human beings with differing backgrounds and references. Toeing the line was a moot point in the case of non-controversial issues, but party members must be permitted to express any fundamental disagreement with that line when it came to more contentious subjects. Human beings were free and freedom of speech was a key pillar of democracy to be underlined by political parties.

Mr. A. RIVADENEYRA (Mexico) related that it was still not possible for independent candidates to be elected to the Mexican Parliament and that members of both chambers were elected under the principles of relative majority and proportional representation. There was no legislation to sanction lack of party discipline. Endorsing the comments of the Italian delegate, he added that party discipline reassured voters and assisted the progress of legislative work. Freedom to vote according to conscience must be allowed in predetermined circumstances, just as floor-crossing must be penalized in certain circumstances, such as in an attempt to gain access to resources. In conclusion, he wondered why parliamentarians who disagreed with their party did not leave of their own accord and seek alternative outlets for their views.

Mr. U M. TOE (Myanmar) said it was understandable that political parties, which had a critical impact on parliamentary work, might predominantly shape the conduct of their members in performing their mandate. A party's success could not, however, be separated from the popularity of its members and any tension between party control and freedom of the parliamentary mandate must be constructively resolved through reconciliation. Protection of the parliamentary system by law at the expense of parliamentarians should be strictly limited, even where felt to be absolutely essential. The basic elements of their mandate must be similarly protected by legislation, which must also ensure that parliamentarians were not subjected to excessive party control that could result in early termination of that mandate.

Ms. A. MAKINDA (United Republic of Tanzania) commented that, under the Tanzanian Constitution, parliamentarians expelled from their party also lost their seat. However, parliamentarians in that position who took their case to court were able to remain in office until the court gave its verdict, which was generally not until the following election. In one

such case, a political party had ventured to protest when a parliamentarian it had expelled had been barred from standing in a presidential election while awaiting the court verdict, which was an example of the double standards that were sometimes at play.

The MODERATOR thanked participants for their contributions to the discussion on a such a difficult topic. Further discussions would clearly be useful to promoting an ideal balance in the area of party political control and to enhancing the functioning of parliaments. He invited the panellists to make their concluding remarks.

Mr. J.C. MAHÍA, Panellist, noted that key issues of concern brought out in the discussion had included representative democracy and the job of parliamentarians in carrying out their party election manifesto. Other related issues were parliamentary immunity, which was non-existent in some countries, Colombia being one example, and the strengthening of parties through democratization. As to parliamentarians voting according to their freedom of conscience, it was all very well as long as it had no impact on the majority of their electorate and did not restrict the party. Many party decisions were clearly required on a host of controversial issues being debated around the world, including in Uruguay, such as same-sex marriage and adoption, abortion rights and the legalization of marijuana. The present discussion was an example of how important input could be provided to the debate.

Ms. B. AMONGI, Panellist, said that each of the many democratic systems highlighted during the discussion must aim to ensure that parliamentarians respected democratic principles and used every means at their disposal to arrive at legitimate decisions. Parliamentarians must always act to protect constitutionality and ensure that freedom of expression was not subject to any form of regulation in contravention of constitutional provisions. In the light of views expressed during the discussion, she opined that the best scenario would be for all constitutions to safeguard against expulsion from a political party.

Mrs. M. ANDRÉ Panellist, concluded that parliamentarians perhaps needed to work more consistently with their own parties insofar as many speakers had reacted as if they were not party members, whereas it was invariably through their parties, efficient or otherwise, that they had attained office. Elected officials remained party members and should express their views with that fact in mind. The focus must be on party democratization and strengthening of democratic practices within political parties. The role of parliamentarians was essentially to oversee the government implementation of public policies rather than to criticize. She recommended revisiting the IPU Handbook Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century: A guide to good practice and suggested further consideration of the political party situation of parliamentarians who, while undoubtedly needing to exercise freedom of conscience, also required discipline in order to better serve their people.

The MODERATOR thanked the panellists for their insightful comments.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.

SITTING
OF WEDNESDAY, 9 OCTOBER
AFTERNOON

The sitting was called to order at 4.10 p.m. with Mr. A. Radi (Morocco), President of the IPU, in the Chair.

Item 4 of the agenda

Report of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs

Mr. M. TRAORÉ (Burkina Faso), President of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, reported that, at its first sitting, the Committee had discussed two items: interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams, and the follow-up of the 2011 Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (IPoA). Regarding the first, the Committee had agreed on the importance of the various field trips carried out by its Advisory Group, as they helped to foster relations between national parliaments and the United Nations. Parliaments often did not have enough information about UN programmes and work at the national level, owing to a lack of communication. Furthermore, governments often believed that the areas in which the United Nations worked were the responsibility of the executive; that mindset needed to be changed if the work of the United Nations was to be better supported and understood.

The Committee had developed a number of recommendations: establishing bodies within parliaments to coordinate the work of committees dealing with UN matters; appointing parliamentary focal points to convey UN decisions and resolutions; formulating guidelines on interaction between parliaments and UN country teams; and ensuring annual reporting by country teams to national parliaments, to provide an overview of work conducted in the previous year and planned for the year ahead.

On the second item, the IPoA, the Committee had noted that parliaments needed to support United Nations action if the goal of reducing the number of LDCs by half by 2021 was to be achieved. At present, many parliaments did not have enough information on the situation. Mechanisms needed to be established to improve relations and information-sharing between parliaments and the United Nations, to ensure that the challenges faced by LDCs could be properly overcome.

Mr. E. ETHURO (Kenya) said that at its second meeting, the Committee had discussed non-proliferation, in particular the recent adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors. The Treaty provided a new framework for transparency and accountability in the arms trade and the Committee had highlighted that its impact would be far-reaching, through fostering peace and security by regulating arms flows in conflict regions; preventing human rights abusers from being supplied with arms; and keeping warlords, pirates and gangs from acquiring weapons. Despite some limitations, the Treaty would fill a key gap in the global arms control system. Parliamentarians had a duty to inform themselves about the Treaty, ensuring that it was ratified by all parliaments, and to play an active role in its implementation.

In turning to resolution 1540, the Committee had noted that, given the transnational nature of organized crime, action to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was only as strong as its weakest link. The resolution had a strong legislative element, which called for the establishment of national legal frameworks to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their means of delivery. Such a framework concerned several areas of national legislation, including criminal law, import-export laws, strategic goods and transfers control, and regulatory systems.

All parliamentarians needed to do their utmost to enhance the security of citizens, including through implementation of resolution 1540. In doing so, it would strengthen States' capacity to investigate and prosecute offences, to monitor activities related to weapons of mass destruction, and to send a signal to potential investors that they were safe and responsible places to do business. The Committee had called on all parliaments to pay particular attention to that resolution and to ensure its effective implementation.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that at its last session, the Committee on United Nations Affairs had discussed the role of parliamentarians in promoting international commitments and defending the rights of persons with disabilities, especially regarding political participation. Many speakers had shared the initiatives being taken and good practices in their own countries, including for ensuring that persons with intellectual disabilities had access to information in plain language about election processes and candidates, so that they could make informed decisions when voting.

The discussion had resulted in several recommendations, including: the ratification by all countries of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol; the elimination of constitutional and legal provisions that prohibited the rights of persons with disabilities to vote or stand for election; the allocation of suitable budgets for programmes promoting the rights of persons with disabilities; monitoring by parliamentarians of implementation of the Convention; facilitating the possibility for persons with disabilities to stand for election and participate in decision-making processes; and ensuring accessible and inclusive parliaments.

Mr. D. SÁNCHEZ HEREDIA (Bolivia) reported that, at its last session, the Committee on United Nations Affairs had also discussed defending the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the urgent need to ensure the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in all countries. The right to equal participation required action at all levels of governance; parliaments could only fulfil their legislative functions by ensuring that they were truly representative of all sectors of society. Since 2007, the IPU had worked to ensure that the representation of indigenous peoples remained on the agenda, including through the 2010 Chiapas Declaration.

The Committee had underscored the need for parliaments to recognize the specific culture and identity of indigenous peoples and the particular challenges they faced, and to take affirmative action through legislation to promote their rights. They also needed to ensure that free, prior and informed consent was observed, so as not to adversely affect indigenous peoples' rights.

The IPU Secretary General had visited Bolivia earlier in the year to support the work it was doing under its new Constitution, and as a plurinational State, to promote those rights. It was agreed that a parliamentary meeting would be held in Bolivia in early 2014 to enable indigenous peoples to share their experiences, ahead of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba), referring to the discussions that had taken place on the Arms Trade Treaty and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), expressed regret that the report of the Committee did not reflect the full range of views that had been shared, including that of Cuba.

Item 5 of the agenda

Amendments to the Statutes and Rules of the IPU

The PRESIDENT said that the Governing Council had adopted a number of amendments to the Rules of the Standing Committees and had also expressed support for the amendments proposed to the Statutes of the IPU. He took it that the Assembly wished to adopt those amendments.

The amendments to the Rules of the Standing Committees and to the Statutes of the IPU were adopted by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT further invited the Assembly to consider the amendments to the Rules of the Assembly, including sub-amendments proposed by three Member Parliaments. He took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the amendments.

The amendments and sub-amendments to the Rules of the Assembly were adopted by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT read out a presidential statement on the terrorist attack in Kenya and, on behalf of the 129th Assembly, extended sympathy to the Parliament and people of Kenya and expressed concern over the rise in terrorist acts in East African countries, which threatened the lives of innocent civilians. He condemned terrorism in all its forms and underscored dialogue and negotiation as the only way to achieve peace and understanding. He appealed to all parliaments to ensure that counter-terrorism laws were enforced.

The statement was endorsed by acclamation.

Item 6 of the agenda

Emergency item on The role of parliaments in supervising the destruction of chemical weapons and the ban on their use

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland), speaking in her capacity as rapporteur of the drafting committee, said that their discussion had been fruitful. She outlined the proposed amendments to the draft resolution, including to its title, and expressed her confidence that the text now reflected the many comments and concerns that had been shared. The draft resolution would send a message to parliaments that they could make a real difference by influencing the process to eradicate chemical weapons and she hoped it would be approved by consensus.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that her delegation fully supported the aim to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, but was concerned by the decision to retain the reference in the seventh preambular paragraph to the responsibility to protect, despite the various amendments proposed to that paragraph. The notion of the responsibility to protect was still under discussion in the United Nations and consensus had not yet been reached on it. The concept could not yet be implemented and too many questions still surrounded it. Cuba could not agree to it while there was the risk of it being manipulated and used to justify military intervention, a matter which should be reflected in future documents.

Mr. F. BUSTAMANTE (Ecuador) endorsed the comments made by the delegate of Cuba, especially as there was not yet any international consensus on what was meant by the responsibility to protect. He agreed that the concept was open to abuse by those who wished to justify or encourage military intervention.

Ms. G. REQUENA (Venezuela) expressed regret that the amendments proposed to the seventh preambular paragraph had been rejected. Like Cuba, she did not believe that a reference to the responsibility to protect should be part of that particular discussion, as there was not yet consensus on the concept within the UN organizations. Her country's national policies prevented it from agreeing to include a reference to the concept, which could be used as an excuse to undermine national sovereignty and promote imperialist and expansionist interests.

Ms. U. ZAPF (Germany) said that, as a member of the drafting committee, it had not been clear to her why some countries wished to delete the reference to the responsibility to protect, as the reference was part of the title of an IPU resolution that had already been adopted by consensus at the previous IPU Assembly.

She did not agree with the argument for the possible abuse of the responsibility to protect, as such a concept could be employed without going to war or using arms. Furthermore, the international community was strong enough to unite against any violations of human rights. The reference should be retained in the draft resolution, as it was important for countries to adhere to the conventions and resolutions to which they had already agreed and to fulfil their humanitarian responsibilities.

Ms. I.M. MONTENEGRO (Nicaragua) said that she agreed with previous comments that the responsibility to protect had led to interventions that had violated the sovereignty of countries. As there was no consensus in the United Nations on the concept, and as the IPU conducted its work along similar lines to the United Nations, any reference to the concept should be left aside until consensus on it had been reached.

Mr. A. KUZBARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, as the reference to the responsibility to protect could be open to selective interpretation, the seventh preambular paragraph should be deleted.

Mr. D. SÁNCHEZ HEREDIA (Bolivia) expressed support for the position of Cuba and other delegations, as his delegation believed that the language of the seventh preambular paragraph could be open to abuse. It was important not to refer to the concept of the responsibility to protect, as it had not yet been clearly defined by the international community.

The delegate from the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that his delegation had the same reservation that had been expressed by others to the reference to the responsibility to protect in the seventh preambular paragraph.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that there seemed to be only a selective application of the concept of the responsibility to protect; it did not seem to apply to Palestine, despite the country having suffered various violations of human rights and national sovereignty across six decades.

Mr. E. AOUN (Lebanon) said that the Assembly should not just focus on the preamble and the United Nations Charter but should call on all parliaments to do what they could to make sure that governments acted to ensure a world without weapons of mass destruction, and chemical weapons in particular.

Mr. J.R. LEÓN RIVERA (Peru) said that his delegation supported all those speakers who had rejected the reference to the responsibility to protect and any resulting intervention.

Mr. M. EL HASSAN AL AMIN (Sudan) wished to echo the concerns raised about the responsibility to protect, as the notion would provide a pretext for countries to intervene in the domestic affairs of others and would be harmful to national sovereignty. Moreover, the United Nations Charter explicitly outlined the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

Ms. Z. DRIF BITAT (Algeria) said that the notion of the responsibility to protect was controversial and, as such, Algeria wished to join with those who had expressed a reservation on the paragraph in question.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) reiterated that the responsibility to protect was not enshrined in any international convention, as the issue was still under discussion in many forums. It was not a matter of a simple argument, as current events had shown the consequences of the responsibility to protect: millions of people died when the concepts of national sovereignty, self-determination and territorial integrity were disregarded. All peoples must be permitted to determine their own destinies.

The PRESIDENT said that, although the resolution should be adopted by consensus, all of the reservations that had been expressed would be duly noted. He therefore asked whether the Assembly could adopt the draft resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.

Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly should be satisfied with its work, as significant decisions had been taken on a range of important matters, including the Syrian crisis, the arms trade, terrorism and the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, as well as on organizational matters, such as the IPU governance reforms.

Lastly, he presented the newly adopted IPU logo to the Assembly and thanked all participants and the Secretariat for their hard work.

The Assembly closed at 5.10 p.m.

REPORT OF THE IPU COMMITTEE ON UNITED NATIONS AFFAIRS**Noted by the 129th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**

The Committee on United Nations Affairs met in Geneva on 7 and 9 October 2013, during the 129th IPU Assembly, and had a full and comprehensive agenda before it.

During its first session, on the morning of 7 October, the Committee discussed interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams. It also examined, specifically, the work conducted in national parliaments to follow up the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

The discussion was informed by the Report of the latest mission of the Advisory Group of the Committee on United Nations Affairs to Côte d'Ivoire, in June 2013, which sought to assess cooperation between the Parliament and the United Nations in support of peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts there. Previous field missions to the United Republic of Tanzania (2008), Viet Nam (2009), Sierra Leone and Ghana (2011) and Albania and Montenegro (2012) had assessed progress in the implementation of One UN reform in those countries, in particular in terms of greater coherence and effectiveness of UN interventions.

Organized as an interactive debate with the head of the UN country team in Burkina Faso, the discussion started with the first subject, with the participants sharing their experience with the UN teams in their respective countries and making recommendations with a view to improving their cooperation with them.

Turning to the action of UN country teams in the field, the participants pointed out that the teams were not evenly distributed geographically. In some countries they had a significant presence; in others they were practically non-existent. This made it difficult for the national parliament in those countries to interact with them. To remedy that problem, the participants advocated that UN country teams be present in every country.

UN programmes and policies were designed for people, who were represented by parliamentarians. Parliamentarians were therefore well placed to know people's real needs and to define their priorities. By the same token, in line with their prerogatives as the people's elected representatives, parliamentarians could ensure respect for international commitments, notably those undertaken in the context of the United Nations. They played an equally decisive part in the implementation of the major resolutions and decisions produced by international meetings, such as the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda. Their contribution could take the form of action to arrange the legislative framework in such a way as to reflect the relevant provisions.

This crucial parliamentary contribution notwithstanding, the participants deplored the fact that members of parliament were neither informed nor consulted about the various activities undertaken by the United Nations in their countries. They also deplored the fact that UN programmes were often predefined and did not reflect the population's real needs and priorities.

The participants stressed that, in order to remedy that shortcoming, the United Nations had to inform parliamentarians of its activities by sending national parliaments annual reports and important decisions and resolutions. In the same vein, the participants recommended that the United Nations consult with parliamentarians earlier in the programme-development process. In that regard, the United Nations could prepare an annual summary of its objectives. Because they were in constant contact with their constituents, parliamentarians could convey their needs to the United Nations, which in turn could incorporate them into its programmes. In addition, the population's concerns had to be taken into account from the outset and reflected in the decisions taken by international bodies.

While it was true that UN country teams had to interact with national parliaments, parliaments, for their part, had to take steps to facilitate such interaction.

As a preliminary step, the participants suggested that the internal dialogue between parliament and government be improved, with a view to facilitating the flow of information between the two.

In addition, the participants pointed to the need for the national parliament, the executive branch and the United Nations to have a vision. Combining those visions would allow parliament to play its role and adopt a methodological approach to the preparation of an appropriate strategy for interaction with UN country teams.

The participants recommended that the strategy comprise the following components:

- the establishment within national parliaments of bodies tasked with coordinating the work of the committees dealing with UN affairs; to that end, they proposed that the IPU draw up an inventory of existing bodies of that kind so as to facilitate the exchange of best practices;
- the appointment of a parliamentary focal point entrusted with conveying UN decisions and resolutions;
- the elaboration of guidelines that could help structure interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams;
- the institutionalization of an annual reporting exercise by UN country teams to the national parliament of the country in which they were operating, which would include an overview of UN operations conducted in the country during the year and plans for the year ahead.

The Committee also took stock of the progress made in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action, in a discussion in which the UN High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania, the UNDP Resident Coordinator in Burkina Faso and the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations Office at Geneva all participated.

There were 49 least developed countries: roughly two thirds in Africa, one third in Asia, and one – Haiti – in the Caribbean. The population of approximately 900 million was affected by low income, poor social development and high vulnerability; they were essentially at the bottom of the development ladder. The very ambitious goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action was to lift half of the least developed countries out of that category by 2021.

Going forward, parliaments would have a critical role to play in advancing the Istanbul Programme of Action through national development plans while at the same time continuing to provide input to the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. While the process should focus on real action at the national level, it should also remain bidirectional, i.e. national input should be provided for global discussions and consultations, and vice versa.

The Committee underscored the need for parliaments to take the Istanbul Programme of Action into consideration when debating investment laws. It also highlighted the difficulties faced by donor countries, particularly in the current climate of financial crisis. It suggested that greater efficiency and transparency on the part of UN agencies would foster more trust among donors. The Committee proposed that a set of indicators be developed specifically for the Programme, as had been for the Millennium Development Goals. What was important now was what all stakeholders were willing to do both to implement the Programme and to take it to the next level and ensure that the least developed countries had every opportunity to graduate from that category.

At its second session, in the afternoon of 7 October, the Committee focused on important developments at the United Nations in the area of non-proliferation, in particular the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty in April 2013 and efforts aimed at enhancing implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, an issue of particular relevance in the context of the dramatic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

As the panellists highlighted during the session, the Arms Trade Treaty was a landmark agreement adopted by an overwhelming majority (154 States in favour, 3 against, 23 abstentions). It sought to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons and establish common standards to assess international weapons transfers. In practice, the Treaty aimed to prevent weapons transfers in situations where there was evidence that those would lead to grave violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, or would adversely affect sustainable development. In so doing, the Treaty aimed to provide a new multilateral framework for transparency and accountability in the arms trade.

Over 75 countries had signed the Treaty in the first month after it was opened for signature in early June (113 by 1 October), with the first ratification by Iceland on 2 July. The Treaty would come into force 90 days after it was ratified by the fiftieth signatory State, which it was believed would occur sometime in the latter part of 2014. All parliaments were called upon to play a pivotal role in both ratification and implementation, adapting national legislation as required, allocating resources and monitoring progress in meeting the commitments undertaken.

As highlighted during the debate, the potential impact of the Arms Trade Treaty was far-reaching: fostering peace and security by regulating arms flows to conflict regions, preventing human rights and international humanitarian law abusers from being supplied with arms, and keeping warlords, pirates and gangs from acquiring weapons. The Treaty would therefore significantly boost efforts to protect women and children in situations of armed conflict or widespread armed violence. Monitoring mechanisms would also be put in place, accompanied by an annual reporting exercise. Several governments were already contributing to the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, a funding mechanism for assistance programmes to help develop new policy and legislation.

The participants discussed the good practices that could be implemented to reinforce the aim of the Treaty, create clear accountability mechanisms and ensure greater transparency of arms transfers. They referred to the establishment of national control processes, official administrative guidelines, national inspectorates and practical enforcement measures, including punitive measures for those that did not comply with regulations on the transfer of arms.

Despite its limitations – including the fact that it did not go as far as might have been hoped and that a small group of countries contested its adoption in the absence of unanimous support – the Treaty filled an obvious gap in the global conventional arms control system, and that was preferable by far to the current lack of regulation.

Many delegations expressed the hope that the new Arms Trade Treaty would help curb the immense suffering caused by what until now had been a poorly regulated arms trade. As noted by the President of the Senate of Kenya, the huge quantities available of unregulated guns had represented true weapons of mass destruction for the African continent, a situation that had to change. All States – and all parliaments – had a responsibility to make sure the new Arms Trade Treaty became an effective and workable tool for achieving that shared objective.

The Committee also welcomed the participation at its session of the Chair of the Security Council 1540 Committee and of prominent experts from the academic world and civil society, who presented Security Council resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors, the context in which the resolution had come about, its main provisions and implications, and the benefits of implementation.

First adopted in 2004 and then renewed in 2011, the resolution in essence obliged all UN member States to: (a) refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempted to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery; (b) adopt and enforce appropriate and effective laws to prohibit and prosecute such activities by non-State actors; and (c) establish domestic controls over materials, equipment and technology which could be used for the design, development, production or use of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Given the transnational nature of organized crime, action to counter the proliferation of such weapons was only as strong as its weakest link.

During the presentations and discussion, the Committee underscored the key role that legislators were called upon to play in ensuring that the necessary legal instruments were in place to help protect their citizens from terrorism with potentially devastating effects. Resolution 1540 had a strong legislative component, as it called for the establishment of national legal frameworks to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. Several areas of national legislation were concerned, including criminal law, export-import laws, strategic goods and transfers control, regulatory systems for dual-use materials, and the requisite enforcement measures.

Under the resolution, each State could decide the type of implementing measures it required in accordance with its constitutional processes. Such measures could take various forms: the adoption of stand-alone laws on specific categories of weapons of mass destruction (as was the case in countries such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Singapore and the United States in respect of the Biological Weapons Convention); the adoption of a "weapons of mass destruction law" (as was the case in Chile, India and South Africa); or the implementation of several laws and regulations (most European and civil law countries had adopted this approach, filling gaps in and amending the penal code, export control laws, safety/security provisions pertaining to weapons of mass destruction, etc.).

Irrespective of how resolution 1540 had come about and the objections of a limited number of States, ultimately it was the responsibility of all parliamentarians to do their utmost to enhance the security of their citizens. Implementing Security Council resolutions – which were legally binding on all States – was one sure way to do that. In addition, the implementation of resolution 1540 presented a number of other benefits: strengthening the capacity of States to investigate and prosecute any offences (including preparatory acts) associated with nuclear, chemical and biological weapons or related materials by non-State actors; strengthening the capacity of States to monitor and supervise any activities related to weapons of mass destruction; enhancing public health and safety and national security; strengthening border control; sending a strong signal to potential investors that they were a safe and responsible place to do business; better equipping States to meet their other obligations related to weapons of mass destruction and comply effectively with international reporting requirements.

The point was that, even though resolution 1540 was a non-proliferation and counter-terrorism measure, if properly implemented it could strengthen the rule of law and foster development. The Committee therefore called on all parliaments to pay careful attention to this very important resolution and to do their utmost to ensure its effective implementation. The Committee President and the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly also recommended that the IPU and the UN Security Council continue to cooperate on raising awareness of the resolution at regional level, including by convening regional events and providing support for the establishment of regional action plans.

At its last session, on the morning of 9 October, the Committee focused on promoting international commitments and defending the rights of vulnerable groups, in particular indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

Despite the adoption in 2007 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, indigenous peoples remained among the most vulnerable members of society. Their level of participation and representation in decision-making, including in parliaments, remained extremely low, even though parliaments had to be truly representative of all sectors of society in order to carry out their constitutional mandate of legislating and holding government to account.

Since 2007, the IPU had conducted extensive research on the presence of indigenous representatives in parliament; it had convened an international parliamentary conference in 2010 to debate those issues. The resulting Chiapas Declaration contained key recommendations for ensuring effective participation by indigenous peoples in politics.

The session underscored that it was parliament's duty to recognize the specific identity and culture of indigenous peoples and enhance understanding of the particular problems they faced, to raise awareness in society and thereby combat prejudice, and to take special measures to promote and protect indigenous people's rights. Moreover, parliaments should make sure that the right to free, prior and informed consent was observed at all stages leading up to the adoption of legislative and administrative measures potentially affecting indigenous peoples.

The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was scheduled to take place at UN headquarters in New York in September 2014, and it was important to ensure that the deliberations incorporated a parliamentary perspective. For that purpose, the IPU would continue to encourage parliaments to be more inclusive both in terms of their composition and of their working modalities, and would convene a parliamentary meeting in the Plurinational State of Bolivia in April 2014 to enable them to share their experiences. It was convinced that those developments could inspire other countries that had yet to take steps to ensure that the views of indigenous peoples were taken into account when developing public policies.

Similarly, protecting and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities warranted the particular attention of parliamentarians around the world. According to the World Health Organization-World Bank 2011 World Report on Disability, there were about 1 billion persons with disabilities worldwide. Their rights were enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which had been ratified by over 130 States and took a human rights-based approach to disability. Article 29 guaranteed the right to participate in political and public life of all persons with disabilities.

In order to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, the IPU had developed a handbook for parliamentarians in 2007, recommending the Convention's ratification and its translation into national laws and policies. In keeping with its fundamental principle of "full democratic and political participation", in 2008 the IPU had adopted the Policy to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

During the discussion, participating legislators exchanged views with the representatives of several UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (the International Disability Alliance and the World Future Council) and further explored the role of parliamentarians and parliaments to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, in particular the right to political participation. The participants shared their experiences, spoke of initiatives being taken in their countries, and highlighted good practices, such as:

- rendering information about election processes, candidates and their political platforms accessible in plain language (so that persons with intellectual disabilities could make informed voting choices);
- reserving seats in parliament for disabled candidates;
- providing the right to vote in secret with assistance from someone chosen by the disabled person;
- securing budget allocations for the political participation of persons with disabilities;
- establishing parliamentary committees on the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring disabled persons had access to elections, both as voters and as candidates.

The Committee also formulated a number of recommendations:

- The universal ratification of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol;
- The abrogation of constitutional and legal provisions denying persons with disabilities the right to vote and to stand for election;
- The systematic consultation of disabled persons and their representative organizations in all legislative processes;
- The allocation of budgets to pursue programmes for the promotion of disability rights, including through the provision of reasonable accommodation;
- Parliamentary oversight of the Convention's implementation and of disability right programmes;
- The adoption of measures that would allow persons with disabilities to stand for election and participate in the decision-making process ("nothing about us without us").

The Committee also endorsed the Call to Act (see [Annex](#)) submitted by a group of parliamentarians, which identified a series of measures that could and should be adopted by the IPU and by its Member Parliaments in order to ensure that persons with disabilities were better able to fulfil

their potential in political and public life. This, in turn, would go a long way towards establishing truly accessible and inclusive parliaments.

At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Committee requested that its Report be circulated widely among all national parliaments and within the United Nations system.

* * *

CALL TO ACT

ENSURING THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN POLITICAL AND PUBLIC LIFE

The first ever World Report on Disability, produced jointly by the World Health Organization and the World Bank in 2011, suggests that more than one billion people in the world today are living with a disability. Their rights are enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has been ratified by over 130 States to date and takes a human rights-based approach to disability. Article 29 of the Convention guarantees the right to participation in political and public life of all persons with disabilities.

With a view to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, the IPU published a handbook for parliamentarians in 2007 in which it recommended the ratification of the Convention and its translation into national laws and policies. On the basis of its fundamental principle of "full democratic and political participation", in 2008 the IPU adopted the Policy to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union¹, according to which the IPU will:

1. Implement practical measures to create inclusive, barrier-free environments to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in its work;
2. Encourage Member Parliaments to take action so that persons with disabilities can achieve the transition from exclusion to equality; and
3. Seek a representative Secretariat that is open to persons with disabilities, where opportunities in work are based on merit and all employees feel included and valued.

With the present statement, we renew the IPU's commitment to the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life and to make sure that this principle does not remain a dead letter but is translated into action. Like women and indigenous peoples, people with disabilities should speak with their own voice and take their place in parliament: Nothing about us without us!

We therefore encourage the IPU to:

1. Designate one or more contact points in the IPU Secretariat who can act as reference persons for all parliamentarians concerning the rights of persons with disabilities;
2. Recommend to all Member Parliaments and Associate Members that they harmonize their legislation in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in particular Article 29, and ratify the Convention and with its Optional Protocol (should they not yet have done so);
3. Draw up a questionnaire with the aim of collecting information on the participation of persons with disabilities in politics and the legislative, physical, communication, informational,

¹ The Policy was approved by the Governing Council on 14 October 2008 and is available at: <http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/183-disability.htm>.

technological or other barriers they face, to be answered by all Member Parliaments and Associate Members;

4. Publish the data collected in a section of the IPU website dedicated to parliamentary action on the rights of persons with disabilities, which is to be conceived and programmed in such a way that it serves as a virtual meeting place and as a space where IPU's disability work, initiatives and documentation about good practices and experiences can be consulted and downloaded;
5. Undertake all necessary steps to establish and institutionalize a working group that is composed of parliamentarians engaged in the rights of persons with disabilities and includes parliamentarians with disabilities, that meets at least once a year and that has its own resources;
6. Amend the IPU Statutes to ensure that parliamentary delegations include parliamentarians with disabilities;
7. Pledge to include the rights of persons with disabilities as an item on the IPU's yearly agenda; and
8. Report annually about progress on the aforementioned points to all Members.

We encourage the IPU's Member Parliaments to:

1. Ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol (should they not yet have done so);
2. Make sure that parliamentary bodies, processes and programmes have internalized parliament's oversight role with regard to the Convention's implementation across all committee work, constituency work, etc.;
3. Establish parliamentary disability rights committees or ensure that disability rights as an issue are integrated into parliamentary human rights committees;
4. Ensure that all new legislation is coherent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and that legislation that is not in line with the Convention is duly amended or repealed;
5. Adopt disability-friendly budgeting;
6. Adopt positive concrete measures to become disability-inclusive parliaments, including by rendering their environment, information, communications and technologies accessible and providing reasonable accommodation so that persons with disabilities can inter alia participate in the work of parliaments, take part in inclusive and accessible elections as both voters and candidates, be consulted, follow parliamentary debates and hearings, and be employed on an equal basis with others;
7. Enhance cooperation between parliaments, government coordination mechanisms and focal points on disability, national human rights institutions, independent monitoring frameworks and civil society organizations, in particular organizations representing persons with disabilities, as set out in Articles 4(3) and 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
8. Strengthen the involvement of parliaments in the work of the UN human rights monitoring mechanisms, including the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review reporting procedure;

9. Forward the present recommendations to their members' respective political parties, to ensure that they enable persons with disabilities to participate in and be supported by the party, including by making available campaign resources and placing them higher on electoral lists, that they include disability-specific activities in their plans for and reports on constituency work, that they add disability issues to their oversight list and that they have disability-specific indicators when they plan individual or collective oversight visits;
10. Report annually on progress on the aforementioned points to the IPU.

Giving effect to the human rights of persons with disabilities means enabling them to participate on an equal basis with others, at all levels.

AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES AND RULES**STATUTES****Amendments approved unanimously by the 129th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**Article 6.1

Amend the existing Article as follows:

1. All Members or Associate Members of the Union shall have their own Rules governing their participation in the Union's work. They shall make all structural, administrative and financial provisions required to ensure effectively their representation in the Union, the implementation of the decisions taken and to maintain a regular liaison with the Secretariat of the Union to which they shall send, ~~before the end of January of each year,~~ **an annual** report of their activities, including the names of their officers and the list or the total number of their members.

Article 10.2

Amend the existing Article as follows:

2. The number of members of Parliament appointed as delegates to the ~~first annual session of the Assembly~~ by a Member of the Union shall in no case exceed eight in respect of Parliaments of countries with a population of less than one hundred million inhabitants, or ten in respect of Parliaments of countries with a population of one hundred million inhabitants or more. ~~The number of delegates to the second annual session shall not exceed five or seven for Parliaments of countries with a population of one hundred million inhabitants or more.~~

Article 13.2

Amend the existing Article as follows:

2. Standing Committees shall normally prepare reports and/or draft resolutions for the Assembly **and perform other functions as set out in the Rules (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 6.1 quater).**

Article 22

Amend the existing Article as follows:

A Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be held on the occasion of ~~the first~~ **both** annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. This Meeting shall establish its own Rules which shall be approved by the Governing Council. The Meeting is assisted by a Coordinating Committee whose Rules it shall approve. The Coordinating Committee will meet during both annual sessions of the Assembly.

New Article 22bis

Add a new Article after the existing Article 22 to read as follows:

22bis. The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and may hold additional sessions and organise missions as necessary. The Committee shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Committee shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council.

New Article 22ter

Add a new Article after Article 22bis to read as follows:

22ter. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians shall meet on the occasion of both annual sessions of the Assembly and shall report on its work to the Governing Council. The Forum shall establish its own Rules, which shall be approved by the Governing Council.

Article 23.9

Amend the existing Article as follows:

9. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as ~~President or Vice-President~~ **Bureau members** of a Standing Committees.

* * *

RULES OF THE ASSEMBLY

**Amendments approved unanimously by the 129th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**

Rule 4.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The Assembly will meet twice a year. ~~The first session will take place in the first half of each year and normally last for five~~ **four** working days. The second session will take place in the ~~second half of the year and normally last for three working days.~~ It will be held in Geneva, unless the IPU Governing bodies decide otherwise.

Rule 10.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The agenda of the Assembly, approved on the occasion of its previous session, shall include a General Debate with an overall theme, ~~and one~~ **normally two** subject items proposed by ~~the each~~ Standing Committees and relating to ~~its~~ **their** own field of competence (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 6.1 and Statutes, Art. 14.1) **as well as possible reports submitted by the Standing Committees.**

Rule 13

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

As a rule, the Assembly will appoint two rapporteurs for each **subject item proposed by a** Standing Committee. ~~These rapporteurs who~~ will prepare a **succinct, action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum** ~~report or reports on the item~~

~~placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to such reports~~**the drafting process** by submitting **their brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1)** ~~suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs. The arrangements for the submission of such suggestions and comments~~**written inputs** shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 12).

Rule 14.1

Delete the existing Rule.

~~1. — The rapporteurs will also prepare a draft resolution on the subject included on the agenda of their Committee.~~

Rule 15.2

Delete the existing Rule.

~~2. — The Assembly may hold a panel discussion on a specific topic of general interest, which could also be the overall theme allocated to the General Debate.~~

Rule 15.3

Amend the existing rule as follows:

3. The ~~three~~ subject items placed by the Assembly on its agenda shall be debated by the ~~competent~~ Standing Committees, each of which shall prepare ~~a report and a draft resolutions~~ for consideration by the Assembly (cf. Statutes, Art. 13.2).

Rule 17.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the **IPU** Secretariat ~~of the Assembly~~ no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. ~~This Rule shall apply to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the second Assembly of the year~~ (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 12.2).

Rule 38.1

Delete the existing Rule.

~~1. — The provisional summary record of each sitting shall be made available to delegates within twenty-four hours. Any delegate may request a rectification; the Steering Committee shall decide, in case of doubt, as to its admissibility.~~

Rule 38.3

Amend the existing Rule and move it up to precede current Rule 38.2.

~~31.~~ The ~~final~~ summary record of the proceedings shall be published and distributed before the following Assembly.

RULES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES**Amendments approved unanimously by the Governing Council at its 193rd session
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**Rule 6.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. Standing Committees shall ~~normally~~ **meet during each session of the Assembly and shall normally** debate and prepare ~~one reports and~~ draft resolutions **per year** on their respective a subject items placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3). **The draft resolution should duly take into account the views of different Members.**

New Rule 6.1bis

Add a new rule after the existing Rule 6.1 to read as follows:

6.1bis. A system of rotation among the Standing Committees shall be put in place to determine the order in which the resolutions are prepared.

New Rule 6.1ter

Add a new rule after Rule 6.1bis to read as follows and then place Rule 6.2 right after Rule 6.1bis:

6.1ter. Without prejudice to the provisions of Rule 6.1 and Rule 6.2, the Standing Committees shall establish their own work plans and set their agendas.

New Rule 6.1quater

Add a new rule after Rule 6.1ter to read as follows:

6.1quater. In addition to the consideration of explanatory memoranda and draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item placed on the agenda of the Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rules 10.1 and 15.3, and Standing Committees, Rules 12.1 and 12.2), the Standing Committees may inter alia commission research, discuss reports on good practices, review implementation of and follow-up action on previous IPU resolutions, organise field missions and hold hearings on subjects related to their field of competence, whenever possible in cooperation with the United Nations and other official organizations.

Rule 6.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

~~25.~~ The **Standing Committees** may also be instructed by the Governing Council to study an item included in the latter's agenda and make a report.

Rule 7.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

OFFICERS-BUREAU**RULE 7**

1. Each Standing Committee shall elect a Bureau composed of **three representatives of each of the existing geopolitical groups, which shall designate to each Bureau not more than two candidatures of the same sex. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians and encourage candidatures from new Members of the Union as well as Members that do not hold other offices in the Union.** ~~a President and Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall be elected as First Vice President. They shall represent the existing geopolitical Groups and the number of Bureau members shall be equivalent to the number of geopolitical Groups. Each member shall have a substitute. An effort shall be made to ensure gender balance.~~

New Rule 7.1bis

Add a new rule after the existing Rule 7.1 to read as follows:

7.1bis. Candidatures for a Bureau shall be submitted by the respective geopolitical group (cf. Statutes, Art. 25.2) and should have expertise and specialization as far as possible in the area of work of the given Standing Committee.

New Rule 7.1ter

Add a new rule after Rule 7.1bis to read as follows:

7.1ter. Elected members of the Bureau shall be supported by their respective parliament in carrying out their function as members of the Bureau. Every effort shall be made to ensure their participation in IPU Assemblies for the duration of their mandate as members of the Bureau.

Rule 7.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

2. ~~Officers~~ **Members of the Bureau** shall be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of each Committee by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

Rule 7.3

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

3. **The Standing Committees shall elect a President and a Vice-President from among the members of their Bureau.** The posts of **President and Vice-President** shall be filled at a single election. **The geopolitical groups shall coordinate among themselves so as to ensure, to the extent possible, an equitable distribution of the posts of President and Vice-Presidents of Standing Committees.**

Rule 8.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. ~~A~~ **Members of the Bureau** ~~Committee officer~~ shall not be **elected for a term of two years and may be re-elected for a further period of two years.** ~~eligible for re-election to the same post, either as titular or substitute, after four years in office.~~

Rule 8.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

2. When a **member of a Bureau** ~~Committee officer~~ has served for four consecutive years, two years must elapse before that person may again be elected to the ~~post held previously~~ **same Bureau**.

Rule 9.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. In order to ensure as far as possible a fair distribution of these posts among the Members of the Union, representatives of a Member shall not simultaneously hold more than one post as President or Vice-President **of Standing Committees (cf. Rule 7.3)**, or hold a post in the same body for more than four consecutive years (cf. Rule 8.2).

Rule 9.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

2. Members of the Executive Committee shall not simultaneously hold office as ~~President or Vice-President~~ **Bureau members** of a Standing Committees (cf. Statutes, Art. 23.9 and Standing Committees, Rule 10.2).

Rule 9.3

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

3. There shall be no candidates for the post of President **or Vice-President** of a Standing Committee from a Member of the Union represented on the Executive Committee.

New Rule 9bis.1

Under the new Rule 9bis, add a first rule to read as follows:

9bis.1. Members of the Bureau who are unable to participate in a session may be replaced by other duly mandated representatives from the same Members of the Union for the duration of that session only.

New Rule 9bis.2

Under the new Rule 9bis, add a second rule to read as follows:

9bis.2. Members of the Bureau who are absent for two consecutive sessions without a valid reason may lose their seat on the Bureau by a decision of the corresponding Committee. In such cases, a new election will be held at the next session of the Standing Committee to fill the respective vacancy.

New Rule 9ter

Add a new rule after Rule 9bis to read as follows:

RULE 9ter

The Bureau of each Standing Committee shall normally meet at both annual sessions of the Assembly to prepare and review implementation of the Committee's work plans and consider proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies.

New Rule 9quater

Add a new rule after Rule 9ter to read as follows:

The Bureau of a Standing Committee may meet and deliberate irrespective of the number of Bureau members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Bureau members or their duly mandated replacements (cf. Rule 9bis.1) are in attendance.

Rule 10.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The ~~First~~ Vice-President shall act for the President of a Standing Committee in the latter's absence.

Rule 10.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

2. In case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate or death of the President of a Standing Committee, or if the affiliation of the Member of the Union to which the President belongs is suspended, the President's duties shall be exercised by the ~~First~~ Vice-President, until such time as the Committee holds its next elections. A similar procedure shall be followed when the President of a Standing Committee is elected to the Executive Committee or to the Presidency of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (cf. Rule 9.2).

Rule 12.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. The Assembly shall appoint rapporteurs for each **subject item proposed by the** Standing Committees. ~~who~~ **These rapporteurs** will prepare a **succinct action-oriented draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum** ~~report or reports~~ on the item placed on their Committee's agenda. Members of the Union may contribute to **the drafting process** ~~such reports~~ by submitting their **brief written inputs in one of the official languages of the IPU (cf. Assembly, Rule 37.1)** ~~suggestions and comments to the rapporteurs~~. The arrangements for the submission of such ~~suggestions and comments~~ **inputs** shall be indicated in the convocation of the Assembly. The **explanatory memorandum** ~~final report~~ shall remain the responsibility of its authors (cf. Assembly Rule 13).

Rule 12.2

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

2. ~~The rapporteurs shall also prepare a draft resolution on the subject to be debated in their Committee, which the Secretariat of the IPU shall send~~ **the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum** to the Members in advance of the session. Members may propose

amendments to the draft resolution no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender perspective to the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. ~~This Rule shall apply to the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians at the second Assembly of the year.~~ The Committee will finalise the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.1).

New Rule 12.3

Add a new rule after the existing Rule 12.2 to read as follows:

12.3. The appointment of rapporteurs shall take into account the principles of gender equality and equitable geographical distribution. Every effort shall be made to include young parliamentarians among the rapporteurs.

New Rule 12.4

Add a new rule after Rule 12.3 to read as follows:

12.4. If at least one rapporteur is not appointed before the end of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject is to be discussed, the President of the IPU shall be entrusted with pursuing consultations with a view to appointing these rapporteurs at the earliest possible opportunity.

Rule 15.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. ~~The Bureau of a~~ **Resolutions shall normally be finalised in the Standing Committees. A** Standing Committee may, if necessary, set up a drafting committee, **whose members shall be competent and specialize in the subject under study.**

New Rule 16bis

Add a new rule after the existing Rule 16 to read as follows:

SELECTION OF SUBJECT ITEMS

RULE 16bis

Any Member of the Union may submit a proposal for a subject item to be discussed by a Standing Committee at a future Assembly. Such proposals shall be deposited with the Secretariat of the Union no later than 15 days before the opening of the Assembly preceding the one where the subject will be discussed.

New Rule 16ter

After Rule 16bis, add a new rule comprising three sub-rules to read as follows:

RULE 16ter

16ter.1. A Standing Committee shall decide on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly (cf. Assembly, Rule 15.3) after hearing the recommendation of its Bureau.

16ter.2. When the Committee is called upon to take a decision on the subject item to be proposed for discussion at the next Assembly, the only proposals in order, other than those included in the recommendation of its Bureau, shall be earlier proposals submitted within the statutory deadlines (cf. Rule 16bis.1) but not accepted by the Bureau.

16ter.3. If a Standing Committee receives a request from a Member of the Union to consider a proposal that was not accepted by the Bureau, the Standing Committee shall first decide whether to consider such a request.

New Rule 16quater

After Rule 16ter, add a new rule comprising four sub-rules to read as follows:

RULE 16quater

16quater.1. The Bureau shall consider all duly submitted proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies and shall formulate its recommendation to the Standing Committee.

16quater.2. The authors of proposals (cf. Rule 16bis.1) shall be invited to present them to the Bureau.

16quater.3. A member of the Bureau cannot present a proposal on behalf of a delegation.

16quater.4. When considering the proposals for subject items to be discussed at future Assemblies, the Bureau may recommend one of the proposals, combine two or more of them dealing with the same subject or related subjects into a single item, put forward another subject item or decide to submit more than one proposal to the Standing Committee.

New Rule 16quinquies

Add a new rule after Rule 16quater to read as follow:

RULE 16quinquies

The Bureau of one Standing Committee may convey to the Bureau of another Standing Committee its suggestions for subject items to be discussed by that Standing Committee at future Assemblies.

Rule 30.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. **Decisions of Standing Committees and their Bureaux** ~~decisions~~, with the exception of elections which are held in conformity with the provisions of Rule 7, shall be taken either by show of hands or by roll call.

Rule 34.1

Amend the existing Rule as follows:

1. A Standing Committee may meet and deliberate whatever the number of members present. However, a vote may take place only if at least half of the Members of the Union participating in the Assembly are represented in the Standing Committee. The quorum shall be determined ~~by the Secretary General~~ **on the basis of the number of Members of the Union present at the Assembly** at the **time of its** opening ~~of each Assembly~~.

Rule 34.2

Amend the existing rule as follows:

2. The quorum shall be considered as attained and a vote taken by a Standing Committee as valid, whatever the number of members present or participating therein if, before the voting, the President has not ~~verified whether there is a quorum and/or has not~~ been called upon ~~to do so~~ by a member of the Standing Committee **to verify whether there is a quorum**.

Rule 34.3

Delete the existing rule.

- ~~3. When, before the vote, the presence of a quorum has been noted, that vote shall be considered as valid whatever the number of members participating therein.~~

Rule 35.1

Amend the existing rule as follows:

1. Decisions **of Standing Committees and their Bureaux** shall be taken by a majority of the votes cast, except as stipulated in Rule 7.2 of these Rules.

**Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Morocco and Palestine
for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

**"ADDRESSING CRIMINAL ACTS OF DELIBERATE DESTRUCTION OF WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE
IN COUNTRIES IN A SITUATION OF ARMED CONFLICT OR FIGHTING TERRORISM:
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS"**

Results

Affirmative votes..... 779 Total of affirmative and negative votes . 983
Negative votes..... 204 Two-thirds majority 655
Abstentions..... 561

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Georgia			11	Niger	13		
Albania		Absent			Germany		19	Nigeria	10	10	
Algeria	15			Ghana	13			Norway			10
Andorra			10	Greece	10		3	Oman	11		
Angola			12	Guatemala		12		Pakistan	21		
Argentina			16	Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Palestine	11		
Armenia	11			Haiti	11			Panama			11
Australia		14		Hungary			13	Peru	10		
Austria			12	Iceland		10		Philippines	18		
Bahrain	Absent			India			23	Poland			15
Bangladesh	20			Indonesia	22			Portugal	7		6
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Qatar	8		
Belgium	12			Iraq	14			Republic of Korea	17		
Benin	12			Ireland			11	Romania			14
Bhutan			10	Israel		12		Russian Federation	10		10
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Italy			17	San Marino	5		5
Botswana	11			Japan			20	Saudi Arabia	14		
Brazil			20	Jordan	12			Seychelles	Absent		
Burkina Faso	13			Kazakhstan	10			Singapore	12		
Burundi	10			Kenya		14		Slovenia			11
Cambodia	13			Kuwait	10			Somalia	10		
Cameroon	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic	10			South Africa	7		
Canada		15		Latvia		11		Spain			15
Chad	7		6	Lebanon	11			Sri Lanka	13		
Chile			13	Lesotho	10			Sudan	15		
China	5		18	Liechtenstein			10	Suriname			10
Colombia			10	Lithuania			11	Sweden		12	
Congo	11			Malawi			13	Switzerland			12
Costa Rica			11	Malaysia	Absent			Syrian Arab Rep.	5		8
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Maldives	Absent			Thailand	10		8
Croatia	11			Mali	Absent			The FYR of Macedonia			11
Cuba	13			Malta	8			Timor-Leste			11
Cyprus	5			Mauritius	11			Turkey	6		
Czech Republic		10		Mexico			20	Uganda	7		6
DR of the Congo	17			Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Ukraine	10		
Denmark		12		Monaco	Absent			United Arab Emirates	8		
Dominican Rep.			12	Mongolia	2			United Kingdom		14	4
Ecuador			13	Morocco	15			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
El Salvador			12	Myanmar	17			Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	11			Namibia	11			Venezuela			8
Estonia			10	Netherlands	4			Viet Nam	18		
Ethiopia	Absent			New Zealand			11	Zambia			13
Finland		12		Nicaragua	3			Zimbabwe	10		
France		17									
Gabon	8		3								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session 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 Uruguay with the support
of GRULAC for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

"CYBER WARFARE – A SERIOUS THREAT TO PEACE AND GLOBAL SECURITY"

Results

Affirmative votes..... 850 Total of affirmative and negative votes . 1032
 Negative votes..... 182 Two-thirds majority 688
 Abstentions..... 502

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan			14	Georgia			11	Niger	13		
Albania	Absent			Germany			19	Nigeria	20		
Algeria	8		7	Ghana	13			Norway			10
Andorra	10			Greece	10		3	Oman	5		
Angola			12	Guatemala	12			Pakistan	21		
Argentina	16			Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Palestine	3		
Armenia	11			Haiti	11			Panama	11		
Australia		14		Hungary	13			Peru	10		
Austria			12	Iceland		10		Philippines	18		
Bahrain	Absent			India	23			Poland	15		
Bangladesh			20	Indonesia	22			Portugal	13		
Belarus			13	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	6		12	Qatar	4		
Belgium			12	Iraq			14	Republic of Korea	17		
Benin	6		6	Ireland			11	Romania			14
Bhutan			10	Israel		12		Russian Federation			20
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Italy	17			San Marino			10
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Saudi Arabia		14	
Brazil	20			Jordan			12	Seychelles	Absent		
Burkina Faso			13	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore			12
Burundi			10	Kenya	14			Slovenia			11
Cambodia			13	Kuwait			10	Somalia	10		
Cameroon	10			Lao People's Dem. Republic	10			South Africa			16
Canada		15		Latvia		11		Spain	15		
Chad			13	Lebanon			11	Sri Lanka	13		
Chile	13			Lesotho			10	Sudan		15	
China	20		3	Liechtenstein		10		Suriname			10
Colombia	10			Lithuania			11	Sweden		12	
Congo	11			Malawi	10			Switzerland			12
Costa Rica	10			Malaysia	Absent			Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Maldives	Absent			Thailand	10		8
Croatia	11			Mali	Absent			The fYR of Macedonia			11
Cuba	13			Malta	8			Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus	5			Mauritius	11			Turkey			18
Czech Republic		10		Mexico	20			Uganda	13		
DR of the Congo	5			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Ukraine			10
Denmark		12		Monaco	Absent			United Arab Emirates	11		
Dominican Rep.	12			Mongolia	5			United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador	13			Morocco	5		10	United Republic of Tanzania	15		
El Salvador	12			Myanmar	17			Uruguay	11		
Equatorial Guinea	10			Namibia			11	Venezuela	8		
Estonia			10	Netherlands	4			Viet Nam	18		
Ethiopia	Absent			New Zealand			11	Zambia	13		
Finland		12		Nicaragua	4			Zimbabwe	10		
France		17									
Gabon	8		3								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session 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 the Syrian Arab Republic
for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

**"ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH
SUPPORT FOR A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BY REFUSING ANY MANNER OF AGGRESSION, OR THREAT OF AGGRESSION,
VIOLATION OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERFERENCE IN SYRIA'S AFFAIRS THAT EXCEEDS THE FRAMEWORK OF
INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY, AND BY APPLYING ALL INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY RESOLUTIONS ON THE FIGHT
AGAINST TERRORISM"**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes..... 497 Total of affirmative and negative votes . 777
Negative votes..... 280 Two-thirds majority 518
Abstentions..... 785

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Georgia		11		Niger			13
Albania		Absent			Germany		19		Nigeria	20	
Algeria	15			Ghana			13	Norway			10
Andorra			10	Greece	10		3	Oman	11		
Angola			12	Guatemala			12	Pakistan	21		
Argentina			16	Guinea-Bissau		Absent		Palestine	3		
Armenia	11			Haiti			11	Panama			11
Australia			14	Hungary			13	Peru			10
Austria			12	Iceland		10		Philippines			18
Bahrain		Absent			India			23	Poland		15
Bangladesh			20	Indonesia	22			Portugal		7	6
Belarus	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Qatar			8
Belgium		12		Iraq	14			Republic of Korea			17
Benin			12	Ireland			11	Romania			14
Bhutan			10	Israel		12		Russian Federation	20		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Italy			17	San Marino	10		
Botswana	11			Japan			20	Saudi Arabia		14	
Brazil			20	Jordan	12			Seychelles		Absent	
Burkina Faso			13	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore			12
Burundi			10	Kenya	14			Slovenia			11
Cambodia			13	Kuwait			10	Somalia	10		
Cameroon			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic	10			South Africa	8		
Canada		15		Latvia			11	Spain		15	
Chad			13	Lebanon			11	Sri Lanka	13		
Chile			13	Lesotho			10	Sudan			15
China	23			Liechtenstein		10		Suriname			10
Colombia			10	Lithuania			11	Sweden		12	
Congo			11	Malawi		13		Switzerland			12
Costa Rica			10	Malaysia		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.	13		
Côte d'Ivoire	4		9	Maldives		Absent		Thailand	18		
Croatia			11	Mali		Absent		The fYR of Macedonia		11	
Cuba	13			Malta			8	Timor-Leste		11	
Cyprus	5			Mauritius			11	Turkey		18	
Czech Republic		10		Mexico	20			Uganda			13
DR of the Congo			17	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Ukraine			10
Denmark		12		Monaco		Absent		United Arab Emirates		11	
Dominican Rep.			12	Mongolia	4			United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador			13	Morocco			15	United Republic of Tanzania	5		10
El Salvador			12	Myanmar	17			Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea			11	Namibia	11			Venezuela	8		
Estonia		10		Netherlands		13		Viet Nam	18		
Ethiopia		Absent			New Zealand		11	Zambia			13
Finland		12		Nicaragua	3			Zimbabwe	10		
France		17									
Gabon			11								

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session 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 Denmark, Finland,
Iceland, Norway and Sweden for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled**

**"THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN SUPERVISING THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
AND THE BAN ON THEIR USE"**

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes..... 1225 Total of affirmative and negative votes . 1267
 Negative votes..... 42 Two-thirds majority 845
 Abstentions..... 308

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	14			Georgia	11			Niger	13		
Albania		Absent			Germany	19			Nigeria	20	
Algeria	7		8	Ghana	13			Norway	10		
Andorra	10			Greece	13			Oman	11		
Angola	12			Guatemala			12	Pakistan	21		
Argentina			16	Guinea-Bissau		Absent		Palestine	3		
Armenia	11			Haiti	11			Panama			11
Australia	14			Hungary	13			Peru	10		
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Philippines	18		
Bahrain		Absent			India	23			Poland	15	
Bangladesh	20			Indonesia	12		10	Portugal	13		
Belarus	13			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	9		9	Qatar	8		
Belgium	12			Iraq	5			Republic of Korea	17		
Benin	6		6	Ireland	11			Romania	14		
Bhutan			10	Israel	12			Russian Federation	20		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11			Italy	12	5		San Marino			10
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Saudi Arabia	14		
Brazil			20	Jordan			12	Seychelles		Absent	
Burkina Faso			13	Kazakhstan	10			Singapore	12		
Burundi			10	Kenya	14			Slovenia	11		
Cambodia	13			Kuwait			10	Somalia	10		
Cameroon	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic	10			South Africa	16		
Canada	15			Latvia	11			Spain	15		
Chad	13			Lebanon			11	Sri Lanka	13		
Chile			13	Lesotho	10			Sudan			15
China	18		5	Liechtenstein	10			Suriname	10		
Colombia			10	Lithuania	11			Sweden	12		
Congo	11			Malawi	13			Switzerland	12		
Costa Rica			10	Malaysia		Absent		Syrian Arab Rep.			13
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Maldives		Absent		Thailand	18		
Croatia	11			Mali		Absent		The fYR of Macedonia	11		
Cuba			13	Malta	8			Timor-Leste	11		
Cyprus	10			Mauritius	11			Turkey	18		
Czech Republic	10			Mexico	20			Uganda	13		
DR of the Congo	17			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Ukraine	10		
Denmark	12			Monaco		Absent		United Arab Emirates			11
Dominican Rep.			12	Mongolia			11	United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador			12	Morocco	5		10	United Republic of Tanzania	15		
El Salvador				Myanmar	17			Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	6			Namibia	11			Venezuela			8
Estonia	10			Netherlands	13			Viet Nam	18		
Ethiopia		Absent			New Zealand	11		Zambia	13		
Finland	12			Nicaragua			10	Zimbabwe	10		
France	17										
Gabon	11										

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

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN SUPERVISING
THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THE BAN ON THEIR USE**

**Resolution adopted by consensus* by the 129th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**

The 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Saddened by the latest use of chemical weapons claiming hundreds of lives,

Condemning the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons,

Welcoming the constant hard work done by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention),

Concerned by the continued existence of declared stockpiles amounting to more than 13,000 metric tonnes of chemical weapons,

Stressing the need for universal adherence to the ban on the use of chemical weapons,

Recalling the Chemical Weapons Convention, to which 189 States are party, and the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,

Noting the IPU resolution entitled *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives*,

Recognizing the accession by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and stressing the need for full compliance with the provisions of the Convention,

1. Calls upon all parliaments to condemn the use of chemical weapons and contribute to an environment of zero tolerance for the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons;
2. Urges parliaments to request status reports from their national authorities responsible for the administration of the Chemical Weapons Convention;
3. Also urges parliaments to check their national legislation concerning chemical weapons and to exercise their oversight powers so as to ensure effective implementation;
4. Encourages parliaments to demand that their respective governments act to sign and ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention;
5. Calls upon parliaments to demand the speedy destruction of any declared stockpiles of chemical weapons, including abandoned stockpiles, and stresses the need for compliance with the deadlines stipulated in the Chemical Weapons Convention;
6. Requests parliaments to support and fully comply with the invaluable work being done by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;
7. Urges all States that are not yet party to the Chemical Weapons Convention to ratify or accede to it as a matter of urgency and without any preconditions;
8. Encourages the international community to look for sources of funding to be used for the safe destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons

* The delegations of Algeria, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Nicaragua, Palestine, Peru, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela expressed reservations on the inclusion in the resolution of the reference in preambular paragraph 7 to the IPU resolution entitled *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives*.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN KENYA

**Endorsed by the 129th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 9 October 2013)**

On behalf of the members of parliament attending the 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, I express our deep concern over the recent terrorist act on Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, which claimed the lives of 67 persons and left 175 injured.

We extend our sympathy to the Parliament and people of Kenya in the face of this national tragedy.

We also express our deep concern over the rise in terrorist acts that have plagued Kenya and other East African countries, such as Burundi, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, and which continue to threaten the lives of innocent civilians.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms. We express our outrage at such cowardly and reprehensible acts, which cannot be justified on any political, religious or ideological grounds.

We reiterate that the only way to achieve lasting peace and understanding is through dialogue and negotiation.

We appeal to national parliaments to ensure that counter-terrorism laws are in place and, more importantly, are enforced. Impunity for the perpetrators of terrorist acts will only beget further acts of terrorism. It is time to break the cycle of violence while upholding the principle of non-violent settlement of conflicts.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

Mr./M. Abdelwahad Radi

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Président de l'Union interparlementaire

Mr./M. Anders B. Johnsson

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire

I. MEMBERS – MEMBRES**AFGHANISTAN**

IBRAHIMI, Abdul Raouf (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the House of the People Président de la Chambre du Peuple
AKBARY, Mohammad Noor (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People, Deputy Chairman of the International Affairs Commission / Membre de la Chambre du Peuple, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires internationales
IBRAHIMI, Nilofar (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of the People Membre de la Chambre du Peuple
NADERI, Farkhunda Zahra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People Membre de la Chambre du Peuple
FARYABI, Sayed Farushka (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Membre de la Chambre des Anciens
GAILANI, Sayed Ishaq (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of the People Membre de la Chambre du Peuple
MAHDAVI, Jafar (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of the People Membre de la Chambre du Peuple
NASRAT, Khudai Nazar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of the People Secrétaire général de la Chambre du Peuple
HASHIMI, Syaed Hafizullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Elders Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Anciens
IBRAHIMI, Faiz Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker / Assistant du Président
HUSSAINI, Samiullah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, House of the People / Directeur des relations interparlementaires, Chambre du Peuple
AHMADZAI, Shirshah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Director, Relations with International Organizations and NGOs, House of Elders / Directeur des relations avec les organisations internationales et les ONG, Conseil des Anciens

ALBANIA – ALBANIE

TOPALLI, Jozefina (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (DP)
ULQINI, Musa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (SP)
BRAHO, Spartak (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (LSI) ²

ALGERIA – ALGERIE

BENSALAH, Abdelkader (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Council of the Nation Président du Conseil de la Nation
BOUTKHIL, Brahim (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Nation Vice-Président du Conseil de la Nation (RND)
DRIF BITAT, Zohra (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Nation Membre du Conseil de la Nation

² (DP: Democratic Party
(SP: Socialist Party
(LSI: Socialist Movement for Integration

/ Parti démocratique)
/ Parti socialiste)
/ Mouvement socialiste pour l'intégration)

ATEK MEFTALI, Yamina (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of the National People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN)
BOUCHOUAREB, Abdesselam (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (RND)
BENAROUS, Zahia (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Advisor / Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Conseillère	Member of the Council of the Nation Membre du Conseil de la Nation (RND)
DJELLOUT, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN) ³
AMRANI, Hafnaoui (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Council of the Nation Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Nation
MOKHTARI, Mourad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the National People's Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
TAFFAR, Abdelkader (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Adviser to the Speaker of the Council of the Nation / Conseiller diplomatique du Président du Conseil de la Nation
ACHOUÏ, Youcef (Mr./M.)	Studies Director and Protocol Officer, Council of the Nation / Directeur d'études et chargé du protocole au Conseil de la Nation
SIBACHIR, Noureddine (Mr./M.)	Head of Studies, National People's Assembly Chef d'études à l'Assemblée populaire nationale

ANDORRA – ANDORRE

BONELL, Mònica (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the General Council Vice-Présidente du Conseil général (DA) ⁴
RODRÍGUEZ, Arantxa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	

ANGOLA

CERQUEIRA, Carolina (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
PRATA, Guilhermina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
DANDA, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNITA)
SALUCOMBO, Nvunda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)
TITO, Lindo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Casa/CE)
ELIAS, Carolina (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA) ⁵
NERI, Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

³ (RND: National Democratic Rally
(FLN: National Liberation Front

⁴ (DA: Democrats for Andorra

⁵ (MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)

(UNITA: National Union for the Total Independence of Angola / Union nationale pour l'indépendance totale de l'Angola)
(Casa/CE: Convergence Angola Salvation Wide-Electoral Coalition / Convergence ample de sauvetage de l'Angola-Coalition électorale)

DOMINGOS, Dilizia Solange (Ms./Mme)

Parliamentary Staff / Secrétariat

ARGENTINA – ARGENTINEGIUSTINIANI, Rubén (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Senator / Sénateur (PS)

LINARES, Jaime (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur

GIACCONI, Claudia (Ms./Mme)
Substitute Member of the Committee on the
Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre
suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme
des parlementairesMember of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

BRAUER, Mara (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PJ)

PERIÉ, Julia (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

SCHMIEDT LIERMANN, Cornelia (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des DéputésHIGONET, María de los Angeles (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / ConseillèreSenator / Sénatrice (PJ) ⁶LATORRE, Roxana (Ms./Mme)
Adviser / Conseillère

Senator / Sénatrice

ESTRADA, Juan Hector (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégationParliamentary Secretary, Senate
Secrétaire parlementaire, Sénat

URRIOLABEITIA, Gonzalo (Mr./M.)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministère des affaires étrangèresMIORI, Ma. Alejandra (Ms./Mme)
Advisor to the delegation
Conseillère de la délégation**ARMENIA – ARMENIE**ABRAHAMIAN, Hovik (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégationPresident of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)CHSHMARITIAN, Karen (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutifMember of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)

BISHARYAN, Haghine (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ROLF)

ATSHEMYAN, Karine (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)

SARGSYAN, Martin (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK) ⁷GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du GroupeSenior Specialist of the External Relations Department
Chargée principale des relations extérieures

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Head, International Relations Department
Chef du Département des relations internationales

POGHOSYAN, Gohar (Mrs./Mme)

Head, Public Relations Department
Chef du Département des relations publiques

SARGSYAN, Andranik (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

⁶ (PS: Socialist Party

/ Parti socialiste)

(PJ: Justicialist Party

/ Parti justicialiste)

⁷ (HHK: Republican Party of Armenia
(ROLF: "Rule of Law" Faction/ Parti républicain arménien)
/ Parti « L'Etat de droit »)

BARSEGHYAN, Bagratuni (Mr./M.)

Aide to the President / Aide du Président

GHARIBYAN, Arman (Mr./M.)

Press / Presse

AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIE

HOGG, John (Mr./M.)

Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

President of the Senate / Président du Sénat (ALP)

BISHOP, Bronwyn (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LP)

STEPHENS, Ursula (Ms./Mme)

Senator / Sénatrice (ALP)⁸

RADCLIFFE, Jeanette (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Committee Secretary / Secrétaire de commission

CLEMENTS, Quinton (Mr./M.)

Senior Adviser to the President of the Senate

Conseiller principal du Président du Sénat

JONES, Damien (Mr./M.)

Advisor to Mr. Bishop / Conseiller de M. Bishop

WOOLCOTT, Peter (Mr./M.)

Ambassador of Australia to Geneva

Ambassadeur de l'Australie à Genève

STONE, Ruth (Ms./Mme)

Embassy of Australia to Geneva

Ambassade de l'Australie à Genève

KAINE, Jennifer (Ms./Mme)

Embassy of Australia to Geneva

Ambassade de l'Australie à Genève

AUSTRIA – AUTRICHE

WURM, Gisela (Mrs./Mme)

Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)

HAIDER, Roman (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (FPÖ)

MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (G)⁹

WINTONIAK, Alexis (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

VELBERG, Sophie (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr./M.)

Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council

Premier Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif

AL GAUD, Lateefa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Council of Representatives, Chair,

Economic and Financial Affairs Committee / Membre du Conseil des Représentants, Présidente de la Commission des affaires économiques et financières

NASSIF, Jameela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Shura Council, Deputy Chair, Legislative

and Legal Affairs Committee / Membre du Conseil consultatif, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires législatives et juridiques

⁸ (ALP: Australian Labour Party

(LP: Liberal Party

⁹ (SPÖ: Social Democratic Party

(FPÖ: Freedom Party

(G: Greens

/ Parti travailliste australien)

/ Parti libéral)

/ Parti social démocrate)

/ Parti de la liberté)

/ Les Verts)

TAQAWI, Sawsan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des Représentants
KOOHEJI, Isa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives Membre du Conseil des Représentants
AL JEEB, Fouzia (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, Parliamentary Relations and Information Directrice des relations parlementaires et de l'information
AL QATTAF, Ameera (Ms./Mme)	Staff Member / Secrétariat
HAIFA, Adwan (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	Media Specialist / Spécialiste des médias

BANGLADESH

SHAHID, Md. Abdus (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Chief Whip of Parliament / Chef de file du Parlement (AL)
CHOWDHURY, Saber Hossain (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AL)
CHOWDHURY, A.B.M. Fazle Karim (Mr./M.) Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Housing and Public Works Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission permanente du logement et des travaux publics (AL)
ANWAR, M.K. (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (BNP)
SARKER, Md. Shahiduzzaman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AL)
BAKR, Sk. Abu (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AL)
MAUDUD, Mahfuza Khatun B. (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AL) ¹⁰
CHOWDHURY, Md. Ekramul Karim (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
MOQBUL, Ashraful (Mr./M.)	Senior Secretary / Secrétaire principal
SINGHA, Amolendu (Mr./M.)	Personal Secretary to the Chief Whip Secrétaire particulier du Chef de file
AZAD, Md. Abul Kalam (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

BELARUS

SENKO, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Council of the Republic, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs and National Security / Membre du Conseil de la République, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et de la sécurité nationale
NAUMCHIK, Alla (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Republic Membre du Conseil de la République

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

VIENNE, Christiane (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PS)
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¹⁰ (AL: Bangladesh Awami League
(BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party

/ Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)
/ Parti nationaliste du Bangladesh)

de DONNEA, François-Xavier (Mr./M.)
Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for
International Humanitarian Law, First Vice-President
of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade / Membre du
Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit
international humanitaire, Vice-Président de la
Commission permanente du développement durable,
du financement et du commerce

VAN EETVELDE, Miranda (Ms./Mme)

MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.)

SCHOUPPE, Etienne (Mr./M.)

HONDEQUIN, Hugo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.)
Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation

NAGO, Mathurin (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

SANI GLELE, Yibatou (Ms./Mme)

QUENUM, Epiphane (Mr./M.)

GONROUDOBOU, Orou Dèkè (Mr./M.)

TCHOCODO, Gabriel (Mr./M.)

OLORI-TOGBE D'ALMEIDA, Claude (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

GUIDI, Kouassi (Mr./M.)

BONOU, Lucien (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp

Member of the House of Representatives, State Minister,
President of the Committee on Foreign Relations
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Ministre
d'Etat, Président de la Commission des relations
extérieures (MR)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (N-VA)

Senator, Co-Chairman of the Committee on European
Affairs, Chairman of the Working Group « IT and
Fundamental Rights » / Sénateur, Co-Président du
Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes,
Président du Groupe de travail "Informatique et libertés"
(PS)

Senator / Sénateur (CD&V) ¹¹

Secretary General of the Senate
Secrétaire général du Sénat

Director, European Affairs and Inter-Parliamentary Relations
Department, Senate / Directeur du Service des affaires
européennes et des relations interparlementaires du Sénat

Senior Executive Adviser, House of Representatives
Premier Conseiller de direction à la Chambre des
Représentants

BENIN

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (FCBE)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RB)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FCBE) ¹²

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Deputy Secretary General
Secrétaire général adjoint

Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

¹¹ (PS: Socialist Party (French)

(MR: Liberal Party (French)

(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance

(CD&V: Christian Democratic and Flemish

¹² (FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin

(PRD: Democratic Renewal Party

(RB: Rebirth of Benin

/ Parti socialiste (francophone))

/ Parti libéral (francophone))

/ Nouvelle Alliance flamande)

/ Chrétiens-démocrates et flamands)

/ Forces Cauris pour un Bénin Emergent)

/ Parti du renouveau démocratique)

/ Renaissance du Bénin)

BHUTAN

ZANGPO, Jigme (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)
DORJI, Tshering (Mr./M.)	Deputy Chairman of the National Council Vice-Président du Conseil national
NIDUP, Karma Damcho (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national
WANGMO, Tashi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national
JURMI, Tshewang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP) ¹³
WANGDI, Kinzang (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

RAMIREZ NAVA, Agripina (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS)
SÁNCHEZ HEREDIA, David (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate Vice-Président du Sénat (MAS) ¹⁴
LLANOS, Daniela (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentary Assistant / Assistante parlementaire

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA – BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KALABIĆ, Drago (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SNSD)
CEMALOVIĆ, Nermina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SDP BiH)
FRANJIČEVIĆ, Mato (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (HDZ)
SOLKOLOVIĆ, Salko (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SDA)
PURIĆ, Nermin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DNZ) ¹⁵
MIJAČEVIĆ, Marina (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	

BOTSWANA

MOATLHODI, Pono (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
MAELE, Prince (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
TSHIRELETSO, Bothhogile Mogogi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

¹³ (PDP: People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique du Peuple)

¹⁴ (MAS: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)

¹⁵ (SNSD: Party of Independent Social Democrats / Parti social-démocrate indépendant)
(SDP BiH: Social Democratic Party of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Parti social-démocrate de Bosnie-Herzégovine)

(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)

(SDA: Party of Democratic Action / Parti de l'action démocratique)

(DNZ: Democratic People's Community / Communauté démocratique du peuple)

TSOGWANE, Slumber (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP) ¹⁶
NFILA, Christopher (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Principal Clerk Assistant / Assistant Greffier principal

BRAZIL – BRESIL

VASCONCELOS, Jarbas (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénateur (PMDB)
LEMONS, Ana Amelia (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (PP)
NAPOLEÃO, Hugo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)
LINS, Atila (Mr./M.) Treasurer of the Group / Trésorier du Groupe	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)
QUINTELLA LESSA, Mauricio (Mr./M.)	Member and Third Secretary of the Chamber of Deputies / Membre et Troisième Secrétaire de la Chambre des Députés (PR)
MUDALEN, Jorge Tadeu (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)
CAMELI, Gladson (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PP)
SANDES JUNIOR, João (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PP) ¹⁷
MATTA, Mauricio (Mr./M.)	Technical Director, Chamber of Deputies Directeur technique à la Chambre des Députés
SAMPAIO, Sérgio (Mr./M.)	Director General, Chamber of Deputies Directeur général à la Chambre des Députés
CABRAL de ARAÚJO, Silvia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Parliamentarian Assistant / Assistante parlementaire

BURKINA FASO

DIENDÉRÉ DIALLO, Fatoumata (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly Deuxième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)
OUEDRAOGO, Salfó Théodore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADJ)
SAMBARÉ, Palguim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CFR)
LANKOANDÉ, Folga Ildevert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADF-RDA)

¹⁶ (BDP: Botswana Democratic Party

/ Parti démocratique botswanais)

¹⁷ (PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party

/ Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)

(PP: Progressive Party

/ Parti progressiste)

(PSD: Social Democratic Party

/ Parti social-démocrate)

(PR: Party of the Republic

/ Parti de la République)

(DEM: Democrats

/ Démocrates)

(PTB: Brazilian Labour Party

/ Parti travailliste brésilien)

DRABO-OUEDRAOGO, Zénabou (Ms./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)
TRAORÉ, Mélégué (Mr./M.) Acting President of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs / Président par intérim du Groupe consultatif de la Commission UIP des affaires des Nations Unies	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP) ¹⁸
ABGA, Armand Jean Robert (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ZOUNGRANA-DIBOULO, Jeanne d'Arc (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administrative du Groupe	Parliamentary Administrator / Administratrice parlementaire
BOUGMA, Antoine (Mr./M.) Technical Adviser / Conseiller technique	

BURUNDI

KABURA, François (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (UPRONA)
BERAHINO, Glorioso (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD-FDD)
NDITJE, Charles (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPRONA)
NIRAGIRA, Félix (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD-FDD) ¹⁹
BARINAKANDI, Juvénal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

NHEM, Thavy (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights and Complaints Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme et des plaintes
YANG, Sem (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the First Commission of the Senate / Sénateur, Président de la première Commission du Sénat
KONG, Sarech (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the Ninth Commission of the Senate / Sénateur, Président de la neuvième Commission du Sénat
OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Director of the Protocol and International Relations Department of the Senate / Directeur du Département du protocole et des relations internationales du Sénat

¹⁸ (CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress
(ADJ: Alliance for democracy and justice
(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces
(ADF/RDA: Alliance for democracy and Federation /
African Democratic Rally

/ Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès
/ Alliance pour la démocratie et la justice)
/ Convention des forces républicaines)
/ Alliance pour la démocratie et la fédération /
Rassemblement démocratique africain)

¹⁹ (UPRONA: Union for National Progress
(CNDD: National Council for the Defense of Democracy
(FDD: Front for the Defense of Democracy

/ Union pour le progrès national)
/ Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie)
/ Forces pour la défense de la démocratie)

SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office,
National Assembly / Chef adjoint du Bureau des
relations multilatérales de l'Assemblée nationale

CAMEROON – CAMEROUN

NIAT NJIFENJI, Marcel (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

President of the Senate
Président du Sénat (RDPC)

FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)

EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC) ²⁰

YÉNÉ OSSOMBA, Victor (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General of the National Assembly
Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale

ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administratif du Groupe

Director, General Administration Service
Directeur de l'administration générale

NJO MACHOUA, Justin (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

Director, Office of the President of the Senate
Directeur du Cabinet du Président du Sénat

NDOUMEN FONDJA, Berenger Armel (Mr./M.)
Advisor / Conseiller

Officer, Office of the President of the Senate
Fonctionnaire au Cabinet du Président du Sénat

INDJECK, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Advisor / Conseiller

Researcher, Assistant / Chargé d'études, Assistant

TONGA NGASSA, Levis (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

CANADA

ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Senator / Sénatrice (CPC)

OLIVER, Donald (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

Speaker pro tempore of the Senate
Président intérimaire du Sénat (CPC)

DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (LIB)

CALKINS, Blaine (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)

CHARLTON, Chris (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Commons
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP) ²¹

GRAVEL, Line (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Association Secretary / Secrétaire d'association

BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Clerk, House of Commons
Sous-Greffier, Chambre des Communes

GOODY, Allison (Mrs./Mme)
Advisor / Conseillère

Analyst / Analyste

²⁰ (RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement
(PM: Progressive Movement

/ Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)
(Mouvement progressiste)

²¹ (CPC: Conservative Party of Canada
(LIB: Liberal Party

/ Parti conservateur du Canada)
(Parti libéral)

(NDP: New Democratic Party

/ Nouveau parti démocratique)

CHAD – TCHAD

KADAM, Moussa (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group, Leader of the delegation Rapporteur du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
NEATOBEI, Bidi Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP/JS)
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-President of the Finance Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des finances (RDP)
GALI, Ngothé Gata (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Development / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'économie et du développement (UFD/PR)
NDOUBANADJI, Taram Delphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FAR-PF)
ISSAKHA HAROUN, Fatouma (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
HAMID, Kodya Moustapha (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)
GALI, Massa Harou (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
MBAÏAMMADJI, Béain Joël (Mr./M.)	Director, Administrative and Legislative Affairs Directeur des affaires administratives et législatives

CHILE – CHILI

COLOMA, Juan Antonio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénateur (UDI)
LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.) President of the GRULAC, President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade / Président du GRULAC, Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)
SALABERRY, Felipe (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)
ISASI, Marta (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (Ind)
MEZA, Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRSD) ²²
LETELIER, Cristián (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés
LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
PEILLARD GARCÍA, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Director, International Relations, Chamber of Deputies Directrice des relations internationales à la Chambre des Députés
ROJAS, Luis (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Chamber of Deputies Secrétaire adjoint à la Chambre des Députés

²² (UDI: Independent Democratic Union
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party
(Ind: Independent
(PRSD: Radical Party

/ Union démocrate indépendante)
(Parti démocrate-chrétien)
(Indépendant)
(Parti radical)

OSÉS, Juan (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate
Commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat

FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr./M.)

Diplomatic Adviser / Conseiller diplomatique

CHINA – CHINE

ZHAO SHAOHUA (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee of Foreign Affairs
Membre de la Commission permanente de l'Assemblée populaire nationale, Vice-Présidente du Comité des affaires étrangères

MO WENXIU (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

LI YANG (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

ZHOU GUANGQUAN (Mr./M.)

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

WANG WEN (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Directeur général adjoint du Bureau des affaires étrangères

LIU DEYU (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Directeur adjoint du Bureau des affaires étrangères

JIA YONGMEI (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Directrice adjointe du Bureau des affaires étrangères

LI XINYAN (Ms./Mme)

Second Secretary of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Deuxième Secrétaire du Département des organisations internationales et des conférences du Ministère des affaires étrangères

WANG YIXING (Ms./Mme)

Staff, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères

JIN LINLIN (Mr./M.)

Staff, Foreign Affairs Bureau
Secrétariat du Bureau des affaires étrangères

CHENG JIE (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / Interprète

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministère des affaires étrangères

YANG XIAOTING (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / Interprète

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministère des affaires étrangères

LIU MING (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of China in Geneva
Mission permanente de la Chine à Genève

COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

CORZO ROMÁN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Senator / Sénateur (CP)

GARCÍA ROMERO, Teresita (Ms./Mme)

Senator / Sénatrice (OC)

GALÁN PACHÓN, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PL) ²³

SÁNCHEZ MORENO, Lina Fernanda (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / Conseillère

GONZÁLEZ GONZÁLEZ, Diego Alejandro (Mr./M.)

Committee Secretary / Secrétaire de commission

²³ (CP: Conservative Party
(OC: Opción Ciudadana)
(PL: Liberal Party

/ Parti conservateur)

/ Parti libéral)

CONGO

KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU, Joseph (Mr./M.) Acting President and Secretary of the Group, Leader of the delegation / Président délégué et Secrétaire du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member and Second Secretary of the National Assembly Membre et deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale (UPADS) ²⁴
NSILOULOU NKONTA, Augustine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
NGOMA, Fortuné Arsène A.P. (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Second Secretary of the National Assembly / Assistant du deuxième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale

COSTA RICA

GÓMEZ FRANCESCHI, Agnés (Mrs./Mme) Substitute Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Leader of the delegation / Membre suppléant du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PLN)
FONSECA SOLANO, Julia (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PLN)
MONESTEL CONTRERAS, Martín (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PASE) ²⁵

COTE D'IVOIRE

AGBRE TOUNI, Jean Albert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR)
YACE DE MEL, Laurette Andrée (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI-RDA) ²⁶
ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure Yaovi (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Director, Legislative Services Directeur des Services législatifs

CROATIA – CROATIE

ĐUROVIĆ, Dražen (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (HDSSB)
BABIĆ, Ante (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (HDZ)
MARTINČEVIĆ, Natalija (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (HNS) ²⁷
GROZDANOVIĆ, Dubravka (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / Secrétaire

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the National Assembly of the People's Power / Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du
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²⁴ (UPADS: Pan-African Union for Social Democracy

/ Union panafricaine pour la démocratie sociale)

²⁵ (PLN: National Liberation Party

/ Parti de libération nationale)

(PASE: Accessibility Without Exclusion

/ Parti de l'accès sans exclusion)

²⁶ (RDR: Rally of Republicans

/ Rassemblement des Républicains)

(PDCI: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire

/ Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)

²⁷ (HDSSB: Croatian Democratic Alliance of Slavonia and Baranja

/ Alliance démocratique de Slavonie et Baranja)

(HNS: Croatian People's Party

/ Parti populaire croate)

FERRER GÓMEZ, Yolanda (Mrs./Mme)
Substitute Member of the Coordinating
Committee of Women Parliamentarians
Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination
des Femmes parlementaires

SÁNCHEZ CUÉLLAR, Yoerky (Mr./M.)

MARTINEZ, Ada (Mrs./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire administrative du Groupe

RODRÍGUEZ CAMEJO, Anayansi (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Cuba to Geneva
Ambassadeur de Cuba à Genève

CASTILLO SANTANA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

FERNÁNDEZ PALACIOS, Yumirka (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

ROMERO PUENTES, Yusnier (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Cuba to Geneva
Mission permanente de Cuba à Genève

Pouvoir populaire

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power,
Chairperson of the Committee on International Relations
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire,
Présidente de la Commission des relations internationales

Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power,
Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Youth, Children
and Equality of Women's Rights / Membre de l'Assemblée
nationale du Pouvoir populaire, Vice-Président de la
Commission de la jeunesse, de l'enfance et de l'égalité
des droits de la femme

CYPRUS – CHYPRE

NEOFYTOU, Averof (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of
the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de
la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères et
européennes (DISY)

KOUKOUMA KOUTRA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairperson of
the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing,
Adversely Affected Persons / Membre de la Chambre des
Représentants, Présidente de la Commission des réfugiés,
des personnes enclavées, des personnes disparues et des
personnes en situation difficile (AKEL)

VARNAVA, George (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of
the Committee on Defence / Membre de la Chambre des
Représentants, Président de la Commission de la défense
(EDEK) ²⁸

ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire générale

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation

International Relations Officer A
Chargée des relations extérieures A

²⁸ (DISY: Democratic Rally
(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People
(EDEK: Movement of Social Democrats

/ Rassemblement démocratique)
/ Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)
/ Mouvement social-démocrate)

CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

GUZIANA, Petr (Mr./M.)	Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Health and Social Policy / Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission de la santé et de la politique sociale (ČSSD) ²⁹
UKLEIN, Jiri (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
KYNŠTETR, Petr (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés
KRBEC, Jiri (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of the International Relations Department of the Senate Chef du Département des relations internationales du Sénat
TUCKOVA, Alena (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / Secrétaire

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MOKOLO, Edouard (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	First Vice-President of the Senate Premier Vice-Président du Sénat (Ind)
MBUKU, Laka Boris (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)
KIKONTWE, Marie Claire (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (PPRD)
EKOMBE, Mpetshi Toussaint (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDC)
MUJINGA, Kayenu Alphonsine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)
SHEOKITUNDU, Léonard (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Group Rapporteur du Groupe	Senator / Sénateur (PPRD)
SILUVANGI LUMBA, Raphael (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Senator / Sénateur (MLC)
NIANGO, Iziamay Papy (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDPS) ³⁰
BYAZA-SANDA, David (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
MADJUBOLE MODRIKPE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
KATAKO, Josue (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the First Vice-President of the Senate Chef du Cabinet du premier Vice-Président du Sénat
KABANGU DIBA-NSESE, François (Mr./M.) Administrative Joint Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Adviser and Coordinator, Senate Research Office Conseiller coordonnateur du Bureau d'études du Sénat
MUTEBA, Ngoy Baudoin (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Senior Adviser, Research Office, National Assembly Conseiller principal au Bureau des études de l'Assemblée nationale

²⁹ (ČSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party³⁰ (Ind: Independent

(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal

(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy

(PDC: Democratic Christian Party

(MLC: Movement for the Liberation of Congo

/ Parti social-démocrate tchèque)

/ Indépendant)

/ Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)

/ Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie)

/ Parti démocrate chrétien)

/ Mouvement pour la libération du Congo)

MUTUMBE, Mbuya Crispin (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Parliamentary Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller parlementaire à l'Assemblée nationale

DENMARK – DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (LP)

CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)

Member of the Folketing / Membre du Folketing (DPP) ³¹

LARSEN, Carsten U. (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Secretary / Secrétaire

FABER, Charlotte (Ms./Mme)

Staff / Secrétariat

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

FERMIN, Graciela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)

MONTERO, Mariano (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)

ARIAS, Orfelina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)

JAZMIN, Miguel Angel (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD) ³²

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

RIVADENEIRA, Gabriela (Mrs./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

BUSTAMANTE, Fernando (Mr./M.)
Member of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade / Membre de la
Commission permanente du développement durable,
du financement et du commerce

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

VINTIMILLA, Diego (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

OCLES, Alexandra (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP) ³³

RIVAS, Libia (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire générale

ALMEIDA ECHEVERRIA, Elena del Carmen (Ms./Mme)

Director, International Relations
Directrice des relations internationales

VELA, Diego (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

Social Communication Department, National Assembly
Département de la communication sociale de l'Assemblée
nationale

TOVAR, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Advisor / Conseiller

PONCE, Rubén (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp

³¹ (LP: Liberal Party

/ Parti libéral)

(DPP: Danish Peoples' Party

/ Parti populaire danois)

³² (PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party

/ Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)

(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party

/ Parti de la libération dominicaine)

³³ (AP: Alianza País)

AVILÉS, León Pablo (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Ecuador in Geneva
Mission permanente de l'Équateur à Genève

EL SALVADOR

REYES, Sigfrido (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation
GALLEGOS, Guillermo (Mr./M.)

President of the Legislative Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)

Second Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly
Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative
(GANA)

SOSA, Karina (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Legislative Assembly, Chairperson of the
Committee on External Relations / Membre de l'Assemblée
législative, Présidente de la Commission des relations
extérieures (FMLN)

MACHUCA, José Rafael (Mr./M.)

Member and Fourth Executive Secretary of the Legislative
Assembly / Membre et quatrième secrétaire exécutif de
l'Assemblée législative (CN)³⁴

ROSALES Ivan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation

Head of the Department of International Relations and
Parliamentary Diplomacy / Chef du Département des
relations internationales et de la diplomatie parlementaire

VELÁSQUEZ, Victoria Marina (Mrs./Mme)
Ambassador of El Salvador in Geneva
Ambassadeur de El Salvador à Genève

GUERRA, Eugène Arène (Mr./M.)
Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador
in Geneva / Représentant permanent adjoint de
El Salvador à Genève

ULLOA, José Felix (Mr./M.)
Embassy of El Salvador in Geneva
Ambassade de El Salvador à Genève

O'BYRNE, Eugenia (Ms./Mme)
Embassy of El Salvador in Geneva
Ambassade de El Salvador à Genève

LARRAZABAL, Byron (Mr./M.)
Embassy of El Salvador in Geneva
Ambassade de El Salvador à Genève

EQUATORIAL GUINEA – GUINEE ÉQUATORIALE

MOHABA MESU, Gaudencio (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies
Président de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)

MBASOGO OBIANG, Anita (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés

ONDO NSE MEDJA, Juan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)³⁵

EKUA ESONO ABE, Bienvenido (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

SANGO WILASI, Amadino (Mr./M.)

Assistant to the Speaker / Assistant du Président

³⁴ (FMLN: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front
(GANA: Grand Alliance for National Unity
(CN: National Conciliation Party

/ Front de libération nationale Farabundo Marti
) / Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale)
) / Parti de conciliation nationale)

³⁵ (PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea

/ Parti démocratique de Guinée équatoriale)

ESTONIA – ESTONIE

KÕIV, Tõnis (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Riigikogu / Membre du Riigikogu (ERP)
ÕUNAPUU, Jaan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riigikogu, Vice-Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee / Membre du Riigikogu, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires économiques (SDE) ³⁶
ALAJÕE, Maria (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Riigikogu Secrétaire générale du Riigikogu
OTSEPP, Riina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department Chef adjointe du Département des relations extérieures

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

MOHAMMED, Mohammud Reshid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the House of the Federation Vice-Président de la Chambre de la Fédération (SPDP)
DEJENE TILAHUN, Meles (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (EPRDF)
FARIS BUAYALEW, Yohannes (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Constitutional and Regional Affairs / Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération, Président de la Commission permanente des affaires constitutionnelles et régionales (EPRDF)
BARAMO TESSEMA, Tekle (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Security and Defence Affairs Membre du Parlement, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la sécurité étrangère et de la défense
WOLDESEMAYAT ESHETE, Ayelech (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Children and Youth Affairs Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux enfants et à la jeunesse (EPRDF) ³⁷
MAHDI, Beshir Ali (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of Parliament, Whip Membre du Parlement, Chef de file
WAKO LEMA, Megersa (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of the Federation Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération
LEMMA GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Peoples' Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple
DERRA, Debebe Barud (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of the Federation Secrétaire général de la Chambre de la Fédération
GEBRESILASSIE MERIE, Gebru (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Director, Information and Communication Service Directeur du Service de l'information et de la communication
WONDIMU GEZACHEW, Mulugeta (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

³⁶ (ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)
(SDE: Estonian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate d'Estonie)

³⁷ (SPDP: Somali People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique du peuple somali)
(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

FINLAND – FINLANDE

LOHELA, Maria (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (PS)
KARHU, Saara (Ms./Mme) SOININVAARA, Osmo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (SDP) Member of the Eduskunta / Membre de l'Eduskunta (Vihr) ³⁸
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary, International Affairs Secrétaire aux affaires étrangères
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Mrs./Mme) Assistant Secretary of the Group Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe	Assistant to the International Affairs Assistante aux affaires internationales

FRANCE

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénatrice (SRC)
DEL PICCHIA, Robert-Denis (Mr./M.) President of the Twelve Plus Group Président du Groupe des Douze Plus	Senator / Sénateur (UMP)
MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.) Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs Membre du Groupe consultatif de la Commission UIP des affaires des Nations Unies	Member of the National Assembly / Député (UMP)
GUITTET, Chantal (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly / Députée (SRC)
KALTENBACH, Philippe (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / Député (SRC) ³⁹
HÉRIN, Jean-Louis (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Presidency of the Senate Secrétaire général de la Présidence du Sénat
MEFFRE, Françoise (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, International Affairs, National Assembly Directrice des affaires internationales de l'Assemblée nationale
BOURASSÉ, Philippe (Mr./M.) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe	Deputy Director, Senate / Directeur adjoint au Sénat
MEUNIER-FERRY, Dominique (Ms./Mme) Executive Co-Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe	Deputy Director, National Assembly Directrice adjointe à l'Assemblée nationale
FAUCONNIER, Inès (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / Secrétariat de l'ASGP	
VELASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme) ASGP Secretariat / Secrétariat de l'ASGP	

³⁸ (PS: True Finns / Finlandais authentiques)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(Vihr: Green League / Alliance des verts)

³⁹ (SRC: Socialist, Republican and Citizen Group / Groupe socialiste, républicain et citoyen)

(UMP: Union for a Popular Movement / Union pour un mouvement populaire)

GABON

OYIBA, Jean-Pierre (Mr./M.)	Member and Fifth Secretary of the National Assembly Membre et cinquième Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
OWONO NGUEMA, François (Mr./M.)	Fifth Vice-President of the Senate Cinquième Vice-Président du Sénat (PDG)
MEKAM'NE EDZIDZIE, Denise (Ms./Mme)	Sixth Vice-President of the National Assembly Sixième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG) ⁴⁰
MOULENGUI-MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Senator / Sénatrice (PDG)
NONGOU MOUNOUNGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
BIYOGHE BI-NZUE, Nicaise (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Ms./Mme)	Director, Parliamentary Relations, Senate Directrice des relations parlementaires du Sénat

GEORGIA – GEORGIE

KOBAKHIDZE, Manana (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Vice-Présidente du Parlement (GDC)
CHAPIDZE, Eliso (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Education, Science and Culture Membre du Parlement, Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'éducation de la science et de la culture (GDC)
BEZHUASHVILI, David (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UNM) ⁴¹
MARAKVELIDZE, Zurab (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
TSIKARADZE, Nino (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Chief Specialist, Department of International Relations Spécialiste principale, Département des relations internationales

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Bundestag Président du Bundestag (CDU/CSU)
ZAPF, Uta (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (SPD)

⁴⁰ (PDG): Gabonese Democratic Party

/ Parti démocratique gabonais)

⁴¹ (GDC): Georgian Dream coalition

/ Coalition Rêve géorgien)

(UNM): United National Movement

/ Parti du mouvement national)

WINKLER, Josef Philip (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Substitute Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre suppléant de la Commission sur les questions relatives au Moyen- Orient	Member of the Bundestag Membre du Bundestag (Bündnis 90/Grüne) ⁴²
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP / Vice-Président de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Bundestag Secrétaire général adjoint du Bundestag
SCHMITT, Gerd (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Bundesrat Secrétaire général du Bundesrat
KREBS, Andrea (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Head, International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag / Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag
MERATI-KASHANI, Jasmin (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag / Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag
BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation Assistante de la délégation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag
SARENIO, Susanne (Mrs./Mme) Assistant to the delegation Assistante de la délégation	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, Bundestag Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales du Bundestag

GHANA

KUNBUOR, Benjamin (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament, Majority Leader Membre du Parlement, Chef de la majorité (NDC)
KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minority Leader Membre du Parlement, Chef de la minorité (NPP)
SALIFU, Ameen (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (NDC)
AWUAH, Ignatius Baffour (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Whip / Membre du Parlement, Chef de file adjoint (NPP) ⁴³
BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme) Schedule Officer / Chargée de la programmation	Principal Assistant Clerk / Adjointe du Greffier principal
NSIAH, Cyril Kwabena Oteng (Mr./M.)	Deputy Clerk / Secrétaire général adjoint
ASARE-MENSAH, Joseph (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

GREECE – GRECE

DERMENTZOPOULOS, Alexandros (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)
KONSTANTOPOULOS, Georgios (Mr./M.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)
PAPADIMOULIS, Dimitrios (Mr./M.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)
RIGAS, Panagiotis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Membre du Parlement hellénique (PASOK)

⁴² (CDU: Christian Democratic Union
(CSU: Christian Social Union
(SPD: Social Democratic Party
(Bündnis 90/Grüne: Green Party

⁴³ (NDC: National Democratic Congress
(NPP: New Patriotic Party

/ Union chrétienne démocrate)

/ Union chrétienne sociale)

/ Parti social démocrate)

/ Les Verts)

/ Congrès démocratique national)

/ Nouveau parti patriotique)

MAKRI, Rachil (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Hellenic Parliament Membre du Parlement hellénique (AE) ⁴⁴
PAPAIOANNOU, Athanasios (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
GEORGOPOULOU, Varvara (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary General's Associate Secrétaire générale associée
KARTSAKLI, Katerina (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Head of the Department for the IPU and other International Organizations / Chef du Département de l'UIP et autres organisations internationales

GUATEMALA

BOUSSINOT NUILA, Christian Jacques (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (PP)
GÁLVEZ HERNÁNDEZ, Pedro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic, Chairman of the Committee on Human Rights / Membre du Congrès de la République, Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme (PRI) ⁴⁵

GUINEA-BISSAU – GUINEE-BISSAU

DJALÓ, Ibraima Sori (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the People's National Assembly ad interim Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire par intérim (PRS) ⁴⁶
SILVA, Orlando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
DIAS, Fernando Jorge (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Director of Cabinet / Directeur de Cabinet
NANQUE, Satcho (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

HAITI

DESRAS, Simon Dieuseul (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	President of the Senate / Président du Sénat
ANDRIS, Riché (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate / Vice-Président du Sénat
BENOIT, Steven Irvenson (Mr./M.)	Senator, First Secretary of the Senate Sénateur, Premier Secrétaire du Sénat
SHINN, Bianca (Ms./Mme)	Consultant, Senate / Consultante du Sénat
PIERRE, Nadyne (Ms./Mme) Executive Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire exécutive de la délégation	

⁴⁴ (ND: New Democracy
(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left
(PASOK: Panhellenic Socialist Movement
(AE: Independent Greeks

⁴⁵ (PP: Patriotic Party

⁴⁶ (PRS: Party for Social Renovation

/ Nouvelle démocratie)
/ Coalition radicale de gauche)
/ Mouvement socialiste panhellénique
/ Parti des Grecs indépendants)
/ Parti patriotique)
/ Parti de la rénovation sociale)

HUNGARY – HONGRIE

HORVÁTH, János (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)
GRUBER, Attila (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)
MANDUR, László (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP)
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (Jobbik)
ERTSEY, Katalin (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP) ⁴⁷
SOMFAI ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Senior Councillor of the Office for Foreign Relations Conseillère principale au Bureau des relations extérieures

ICELAND – ISLANDE

RIKHARDSDOTTIR, Ragnheidur (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Althingi / Membre de l'Althingi
GUDFINNSSON, Einar K. (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the Althingi / Président de l'Althingi
JÓNSDÓTTIR, Birgitta (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Althingi / Membre de l'Althingi
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Adviser on International Affairs Conseillère des affaires étrangères

INDIA – INDE

KUMAR, Meira (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker, Lok Sabha / Présidente du Lok Sabha
KURIEN, P.J. (Mr./M.)	Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha
BAISHYA, Birendra Prasad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Rajya Sabha / Membre du Rajya Sabha (AGP)
NAIK, Shripad Yesso (Mr./M.)	Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Loka Sabha (BJP)
PAL, Jagdambika (Mr./M.)	Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Loka Sabha (INC)
TIRKEY, Manohar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Lok Sabha / Membre du Loka Sabha (RSP) ⁴⁸
SHEKAR, S. Bal (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General, Lok Sabha Secrétaire général du Lok Sabha
SHERIFF, Shumshek (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General, Rajya Sabha Secrétaire général du Rajya Sabha

⁴⁷ (FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union
(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party
(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary
(LMP: Politics Can Be Different

⁴⁸ (AGP: Asom Gana Parishad)
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party
(INC: Indian National Congress
(RSP: Revolutionary Socialist Party

/ Union civique hongroise)
/ Parti socialiste hongrois)
/ Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)
/ Faire de la politique autrement)

/ Parti Bharatiya Janata)
/ Parti du Congrès national indien)
/ Parti socialiste révolutionnaire)

SAXENA, Uday Shankar (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha
SUBRAMANIAM, Sharada (Mrs./Mme)	Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat Co-Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha
NAITHANI, Rakesh (Mr./M.)	Joint Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat Co-Directeur, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha
VATSA, Sanjay (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha / Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha
RAMANA, L.V. (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha
BALYAN, K.P. (Mr./M.)	Officer on Special Duty to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha Fonctionnaire en mission spéciale auprès de la Présidente du Lok Sabha
ROY, Rashmi (Mrs./Mme)	Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat Chargée du protocole au Secrétariat du Lok Sabha
RANA, Kuldeep (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat Chargé du protocole au Secrétariat du Lok Sabha
RAJPAL, Renu (Mrs./Mme)	Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat Chargée de liaison, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha
KUMAR, Satish (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, Lok Sabha Secretariat Chargé de liaison, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

CAKRA WIJAYA, Andi Anzhar (Mr./M.) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, Leader of the delegation / Président du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire, Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire (PAN)
ALI ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Ms./Mme) President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Executive Committee Présidente du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Membre du Comité exécutif	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)
SETIAWATY, Himmatul Aliay (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PD)
YAHYA, Tantowi (Mr./M.) Member of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Membre du Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/SIDA et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)
HAFID, Meutya Viada (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)
BUDIMANTA, Arif (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)
AMRAN, Herlini (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS) ⁴⁹

⁴⁹ (PAN: National Mandate Party
(PD: Democrats Party
(PG: Golkar)

/ Parti du mandat national)
/ Parti démocrate)

NGITUNG, Bahar (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Regional Representatives Council Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants
AFRIZAL (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Regional Representatives Council Membre du Conseil régional des Représentants
SWASANANY, Winatuningtyastiti (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire générale
ABDULLAH, Habib (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
ISHAM, Mulyana (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
PURBA, Robert Juheng (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
YUHELMI, Wittingsih (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
PUJAYANTI, Adirini (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Parliamentary Researcher / Chercheuse parlementaire
PATRIA, Chairil (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary to the delegation Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Official / Secrétariat du Parlement
RUBINI, Nida (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Staff / Secrétariat du Parlement
WIJAYANTI, Amelia (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Parliamentary Expert Staff / Experte parlementaire
TANSIL, Yuliana (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
GADING (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D’)

LARIJANI, Ali (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Président du Parlement islamique de l’Iran
NADIMI, Iraj (Mr./M.) President of the Group / Président du Groupe	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l’Iran
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité des droits de l’homme des parlementaires	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l’Iran
SALIMI, Alireza (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l’Iran
AGHATEHRANI, Mortaza (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l’Iran
ALIA, Fatemeh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l’Iran

BOROUMANDI, Mohamad Mahdi (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran Membre du Parlement islamique de l'Iran
SHAIKHOESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General, Chief of the Speaker's Bureau, Director General, International Department / Secrétaire général, Chef du Cabinet du Président, Directeur général du Département international
JAFARI, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Head of the Speaker's Office Chef du Bureau du Président
YASREBI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Director General, Protocol Department Directeur général du Département du protocole
GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Senior Expert of the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat of the Islamic Consultative Assembly / Expert principal du Secrétariat interparlementaire de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
ASHJAZADEH, Mohammad Asem (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
GHASHGHAHI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
IRAQ	
AL-SUHAIL, Qusay (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives Premier Vice-Président du Conseil des Représentants (AB)
AL-RIKABI, Sadiq (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (DAB)
IBRAHIM, Nada Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (AQB)
KHOSHNAW, Rawaz (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (KA)
AL-EMADI, Imad (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (ARB) ⁵⁰
HAMADANI, Hasan (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
SALEEM, Adeela (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
NAMIK, Ayad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ALCHALI, Mustafa (Mr./M.)	Public Relations Manager to the Deputy Speaker's Office Directeur des relations publiques auprès du Bureau du Vice-Président
YOUSOUF, Saad (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
YASEEN, Ayass (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
ALSARI, Fadhil (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
AL-BUHILAL, Raad (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	

IRELAND – IRLANDE

BURKE, Patrick (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of Seanad Éireann / Président de Seanad Éireann (FG)
MULHERIN, Michelle (Ms./Mme)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (FG)
DOWDS, Robert (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (L)

⁵⁰ (AB: Alahrar Block)
(DAB: Daolat Alqanon Block)
(AQB: Alirqaia Block)
(KA: Kurdistan Alliance
(ARB: Alrafedin Block)

/ Alliance kurde)

O'DONOVAN, Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (FG)
McGRATH, Mattie (Mr./M.)	Member of Dáil Éireann / Membre de Dáil Éireann (Ind) ⁵¹
DOODY, Bridget (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Chef des affaires interparlementaires

ISRAEL

SHEETRIT, Meir (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Knesset Membre de la Knesset (H)
LAVIE, Aliza (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Knesset, Chair, Committee on the Status of Women / Membre de la Knesset, Présidente de la Commission de la condition de la femme (YA) ⁵²
MELLER-HOROVITZ, Yardena (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire générale

ITALY – ITALIE

CASINI, Pier Ferdinando (Mr./M.) Honorary IPU President, Leader of the delegation Président honoraire de l'UIP, Chef de la délégation	Senator, Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee / Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (SCI)
FARINA, Gianni (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PD)
MONTEVECCHI, Michela (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (M5S)
SORIAL, Girgis Giorgio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (M5S) ⁵³
RADONI, Susanna (Mrs./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés
SORBELLO, Sandro (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés
LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Chamber of Deputies / Chambre des Députés
TALEVI, Paola (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Senate / Sénat
DI PIETRO, Cristina (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	

JAPAN – JAPON

UESUGI, Mitsuhiro (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)
NAGATSUMA, Akira (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)
AKAEDA, Tsuneo (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)
KANKE, Ichiro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)

⁵¹ (FG: Fine Gael)
(L: Labour Party
(Ind: Independent

/ Parti travailliste)
/ Indépendant)

⁵² (H: Hatenua (The movement)
(YA: Yesh Atid (There Is a Future)

/ Hatenua (Le Mouvement))
/ Yesh Atid (Il y a un avenir))

⁵³ (SCI: Scelta Civica)
(PD: Democratic Party
(M5S: Five Stars Movement

/ Parti démocrate)
/ Mouvement cinq étoiles)

YOSHIDA, Hiromi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (LDP)
FUKUYAMA, Tetsuro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (DPJ) ⁵⁴
SANO, Keiko (Ms./Mme)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Directrice de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
SATO, Hiroshi (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives Directeur adjoint de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives Directeur adjoint de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
SUGIYAMA, Jin (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
KONO, Miho (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives / Secrétaire de la Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants
SHIMIZU, Ken (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / Directeur, Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
SUZUKI, Yuko (Ms./Mme)	Assistant Director, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors Directrice adjointe, Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
KANEKO, Nanae (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors / Secrétaire de la Division des conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers
HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
UEHARA, Masato (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
TAKAGI, Izumi (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
YOSHIDA, Kazuko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
MONDEN, Kimiko (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
TAKEDA, Makoto (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
MAEDA, Toru (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva Mission permanente du Japon à Genève	

⁵⁴ (LDP: Liberal Democratic Party
(DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan

/ Parti libéral démocrate)
/ Parti démocrate japonais)

KAMITANI, Naoko (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

IMURA, Kumiko (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

MAKINO, Minami (Ms./Mme)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

TSURUTA, Hazuki (Ms./Mme)
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Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

SUNAYAMA, Yutaka (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

MIZUTANI, Tsutomu (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

HONDA, Hideaki (Mr./M.)
Permanent Mission of Japan to Geneva
Mission permanente du Japon à Genève

JORDAN – JORDANIE

SROUR, Sa'ad (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the House of Representatives Président de la Chambre des Représentants
MAJALI, Abdulhadi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
HAJ HASAN, Samar (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice
BUNDUKJI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur
HIJAZIN, Ra'ed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
AL-SAIDEEN, Daif-Allah (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
SNAID, Ali (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
AL-GHRIR, Hamad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
ALADWAN, Firas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Director General, Speaker's Office Directeur général du Bureau du Président
ALWAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Director of the Speaker's Affairs Department Directeur du Département des affaires présidentielles
ALMASHAKBEH, Adnan (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Director of the International Affairs Department, Senate Directeur du Département des affaires internationales du Sénat
ALARAJ, Hamdi (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Secretary / Secrétaire
ALMOMANI, Hikmat (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	

KAZAKHSTAN

AISINA, Maira (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Mazhilis / Membre du Mazhilis (NDP)
SABILYANOV, Nurtay (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis / Membre du Mazhilis (NDP)
TOREGELDINOV, Zhumabek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis / Membre du Mazhilis (NDP) ⁵⁵
TILEUBERDI, Mukhtar (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Geneva Ambassadeur du Kazakhstan à Genève	

KENYA

ETHURO, Ekwee (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Senate / Président du Sénat (J)
MUTURI, Justin (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (J)
LAY, Joyce (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CORD)
LOSIAKOU, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (J)
NABWALA, Catherine (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (CORD)
DAWOOD ALIMOHAMED, Abdul Rahim (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SANG', Stephen (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Senator / Sénateur (J) ⁵⁶
NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of the Senate / Secrétaire général du Sénat
BUNDI, Justin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of the National Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
RUGE, Njenga (Mr./M.)	Deputy Legislative Director / Directeur législatif adjoint
ADIKA, Peter (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Principal Research Assistant Assistant principal de la recherche
ALI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Director, Office of the Speaker Directeur du Bureau du Président
CHANIA, David (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Clerk Assistant / Greffier assistant
KAIRU, Rachel (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	
ARAP TOO, Noah (Mr./M.)	Research Assistant / Assistant de la recherche
NYAGA, Dishon (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker of the National Assembly / Assistant particulier du Président de l'Assemblée nationale

KUWAIT – KOWEIT

AL-GHANIM, Marzouq (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-SHAYEE, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-OMAR, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly

⁵⁵ (NDP: Nur Otan)⁵⁶ (J: Jubilee)

(CORD: Coalition for Reforms and Democracy

/ Coalition pour les réformes et la démocratie)

ASHOUR, Saleh (Mr./M.)	Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-AZEMI, Saif (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-TRAJI, Abdullah (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-HAJERI, Madi (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
AL-KANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
AL-DEGAISHEM, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
ALDAIHANI, Deyab (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-ENEZI, Meshal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-HARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-AWADI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-SUBAIEE, Muslat (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-DOWAIHEE, Nasser (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-MENAYEKH, Fahad (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
BOHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
MAGAMESS, Jassim (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-AJMI, Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-MUTTAWA, AMal (Mrs./Mme)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-YASSEN, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-AJMI, Soud (Mrs./Mme)	Staff / Secrétariat
AL-REFAEE, Bassam (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
AL-GHUNAIM, Jamal (Mr./M.) Ambassador fo Kuwait to Geneva Ambassadeur du Kuweït à Genève	

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

AKHAMOUNTRY, Koukeo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director General of the Foreign Affairs Department Directeur général adjoint du Département des affaires étrangères
KEOMANYKHOT, Kaysone (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Deputy Chief, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division Chef adjointe de la Division des relations interparlementaires

LATVIA – LETTONIE

MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Saeima, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre du Saeima, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (CC)
NAUDINS, Romans (Mr./M.)	Member of the Saeima / Membre du Saeima (LNKK) ⁵⁷
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau Chef du Département des relations interparlementaires

LEBANON – LIBAN

BERRY, Nabih (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale
ELZEIN, Abdellatif (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Emigrants Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères et des émigrés
AOUN, Elie (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Children / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission de la femme et de l'enfant
BERRY, Mahmoud (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
FAWAZ, Fouad (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
CHARARA, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Secrétaire général des affaires étrangères
HAMAD, Ali (Mr./M.)	Director General for Speaker's Affairs Directeur général des affaires présidentielles
REDA, Saad (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	
BALLOUT, Mohamad (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
NOUR-EL-DINE, Ali (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
ASSI, Ahmad (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
EL-HAJJ, Mohamad (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
AKIL, Radouane (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
MRAMMEL, Imad (Mr./M.) Press / Presse	
CHEIKH ALI, Adnan (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	Police Head, National Assembly Chef de la police de l'Assemblée nationale
CHOUËIB, Youssef (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
HAMZA, Khodor (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	

⁵⁷ (CC: Concord Centre / Centre concorde)
(LNKK: National Alliance for Fatherland and Freedom / Union pour la patrie et la liberté)

LESOTHO

RAKUOAME, Lekhetho (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PFD)
MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DC)
LETHUNYA, Ntsieng (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ABC)
PHEKO, Thabang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)
HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)	Senator, Chairman of the MDGs Committee Sénateur, Président de la Commission des OMD (ABC) ⁵⁸
MAEMA, Lebohang (Mr./M.)	Clerk to the National Assembly

LIECHTENSTEIN

LANTER-KOLLER, Violanda (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the Parliament (Landtag) Vice-Président du Parlement (Landtag)
BÜCHEL, Helmuth (Mr./M.)	Member of the Parliament (Landtag) Membre du Parlement (Landtag)
HILTI, Josef (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary General of the Landtag Secrétaire général du Landtag
WACHTER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary of the Group Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe	

LITHUANIA – LITUANIE

GYLYS, Povilas (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Seimas / Membre du Seimas (DK)
BILOTAITE, Agne (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Seimas / Membre du Seimas (TS-LKD) ⁵⁹
ALEKSONIS, Gedeminas (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
SUMSKIENE, Laura (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Adviser, International Relations Department Conseillère du Département des relations internationales

MALAWI

CHINGOLA, Jones (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)
MWALE, Theresa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)

⁵⁸ (PFD: National Independent Party / Front patriotique pour la démocratie)
(DC: Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique)
(ABC: All Basotho Convention / Convention des Basotho)
(LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy / Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho)

⁵⁹ (DK: The Way of Courage / La voie du courage)
(TS-LKD: Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats / Union de la patrie – Démocrates-chrétiens de Lituanie)

JANGIYA, Mwalone (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)
GAMA, Wells (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)
BIMPHI, Herbert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP) ⁶⁰
MWENYEHHELL, Jeffrey (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Principal Clerk / Greffier principal
CHIUSIWA, Michael (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Head of Committee Section Chef du Secrétariat de commission

MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

KIANDEE, Ronald (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants
WEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BN-MCA)
TAU LIN, Linda Tsen (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SUP)
ANWAR, Nurul Izzah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKR) ⁶¹
ZAMRIZAM, Samsuri (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	
ABDUL KAHAR, Nurhidayu (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Principal Private Secretary Secrétaire particulière principale

MALDIVES

SHAHID, Abdulla (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the People's Majlis Président du Majlis des Citoyens
ABDULLA, Eva (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Majlis Membre du Majlis des Citoyens
MUJUTHAZ, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis Membre du Majlis des Citoyens
NASHEED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis Membre du Majlis des Citoyens
WAHEED, Hussain (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis Membre du Majlis des Citoyens
MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
WAHEED, Mariyam (Ms./Mme)	Foreign Relations Officer Chargée des relations étrangères
AHMED, Ahid (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	

⁶⁰ (MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)
(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)
(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

⁶¹ (MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / Association sino-malaisienne)
(SUP: Sabah United Party / Parti uni Sabah)
(PKR: People's Justice Party / Parti de la justice nationale)

MALI

TAPO, Kassoum (Mr./M.)
President of the Committee on the Human Rights
of parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation
Président du Comité des droits de l'homme
des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

Fourth Vice-President of the National Assembly
Quatrième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

DOUMBIA, Khalifa (Mr./M.)

Sixth Vice-President of the National Assembly
Sixième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

DIALLO, Mamadou (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

MALTA – MALTE

ABELA, Carmelo (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the House of Representatives, Government
Whip / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants,
Chef de file (MLP)

GONZI, Michael (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)⁶²

MAURITIUS – MAURICE

PEEROO, Abdool Razack M.A. (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

HAWOLDAR, Rihun Raj (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly, Chief Government
Whip / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef de file
(PTR)⁶³

NAGALINGUM, Darmarajen (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

DOWLUTTA, Ram Ranjit (Mr./M.)

Clerk / Greffier

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

CUEVAS, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on International Affairs
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires
internationales (PAN)

ORTIZ, Graciela (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Study
Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission de l'étude législative (PRI)

ROJAS, Laura Angélica (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
International Organisms / Sénatrice, Présidente de la
Commission des affaires étrangères et des organismes
internationaux (PAN)

BLANCO, Silvano (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)

GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Chairperson of the
Committee on External Relations, North America / Membre de
la Chambre des Députés, Présidente de la Commission des
relations extérieures pour l'Amérique du Nord (PRI)

RIVADENEYRA, Alfredo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)⁶⁴

⁶² (MLP: Malta Labour Party
(PN: Nationalist Party

/ Parti maltais du travail)
(PN: Nationalist Party
/ Parti nationaliste)

⁶³ (PTR: Labour Party

/ Parti travailliste)

⁶⁴ (PAN: National Action Party

/ Parti de l'Action nationale)

(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party

/ Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party

/ Parti de la révolution démocratique)

ENRIQUEZ BALDAZO, Areli (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Director, International Affairs
Directrice des affaires internationales

PÉREZ, Jeraldine (Ms./Mme)
Advisor / Conseillère

Liaison Deputy Director / Directrice adjointe de liaison

**MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)
MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)**

YOSIWO, George P. (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the Congress, Chairman of the Committee
on Foreign Affairs / Membre du Congrès, Président de la
Commission des affaires étrangères

IOANIS, Liwiana Ramon (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group
Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe

Chief Clerk / Secrétaire générale

MONACO

ALLAVENA, Jean-Charles (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Council, Chairman of the
Committee on External Relations / Membre du Conseil
national, Président de la Commission des relations
extérieures (HM)

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council, Deputy Chairman of the
Committee on Legislation / Membre du Conseil national,
Vice-Président de la Commission de législation (HM)⁶⁵

COLOMBO-PASTORELLI, Mariam (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

International Relations / Relations internationales

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

ENKHBOLD, Zandaakhuu (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Chairman of the State Great Hural
Président du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)

BAKEIY, Agipar (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)

SARANGEREL, Davaajantsan (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the State Great Hural
Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)

BATTSOGT, Dogsom (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPRP-MNDP)⁶⁶

BOLDBATAAR, Byambadorj (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General / Secrétaire général

TSERENDORJ, Narantungalag (Mr./M.)

Head of the Foreign Relations and Cooperation
Department of the Secretariat, State Great Hural
Chef du Département des affaires étrangères et de la
coopération du Secrétariat du Grand Khoural de l'Etat

ENKHTUYA, Dorjzovd (Mrs./Mme)

Head of the Press and Public Affairs Department
Chef du Département de la presse et des affaires
publiques

BATBOLD, Maruush (Mr./M.)

Advisor, Foreign Relations Department
Conseiller au Département des affaires étrangères

ALTANHUYAG, Tsendenorov (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

⁶⁵ (HM: Monaco Horizon

/ Horizon Monaco)

⁶⁶ (DP: Democratic Party

/ Parti démocrate)

(MPP: Mongolian People's Party

/ Parti populaire mongole)

(MPRP-MNDP: Justice Coalition

/ Coalition pour la justice)

NERGUIBAATAR, Yadamsuren (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

ADILTULGA, Tserenlkham (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

MUNKHBAYAR, Amarjargal (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

BAIGALMAA, Tumenjargal (Mrs./Mme)
Physician to the Speaker / Médecin du Président

ORGIL, Luvsantseren (Mr./M.)
Ambassador of Mongolia to Geneva
Ambassadeur de la Mongolie à Genève

OYU, Vasha (Mrs./Mme)
Embassy of Mongolia to Geneva
Ambassade de la Mongolie à Genève

BAYAR, Purevdorj (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Mongolia to Geneva
Ambassade de la Mongolie à Genève

JARGALSAIKHAN, Gozon (Mr./M.)
Embassy of Mongolia to Geneva
Ambassade de la Mongolie à Genève

MOROCCO – MAROC

BIADILLAH, Mohamed Cheikh (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the House of Councillors Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)
OMARI, Abdelaziz (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PJD)
BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)
BOUAMER, Taghouan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the House of Councillors Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM) ⁶⁷
KHOUJA, Abdelouahed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Councillors Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Conseillers
CHIBAN, Omar (Mr./M.)	Head of the Speaker's Office Chef de Cabinet du Président
IDBELHAJ, Hafida (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administrative du Groupe	Head, Division of External Relations and Cooperation, House of Representatives / Chef de la Division des relations extérieures et de la coopération de la Chambre des Représentants
DRIUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head of External Relations Division, House of Councillors Chef de la Division des relations extérieures de la Chambre des Conseillers
ANTRA, Mustapha (Mr./M.)	Communication Adviser / Conseiller de la communication

⁶⁷ (PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party
(PJD: Justice and Development Party
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces
(PI: Istiqlal

/ Parti authenticité et modernité)
(PJD: Parti de la justice et du développement)
(USFP: Union socialiste de forces populaires)
(PI: Parti de l'Istiqlal)

MYANMAR

MANN, Thura U Shwe (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Union Assembly Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union (USDP)
OO, U Hla Myint (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Chairman of the IPU Committee / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations internationales, Président de la Commission de l'UIP (USDP)
OO, Mya (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Nationalities, Chairman of the Committee on Education, Health and Culture / Membre de la Chambre des Nationalités, Président de la Commission de l'éducation, de la santé et de la culture (USDP)
TOE, U Maung (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USDP) ⁶⁸
MU, Aye Aye (Mrs./Mme)	Commission Member, House of Representatives Membre de commission, Chambre des Représentants
SOE, U Kyaw (Mr./M.)	Director General, House of Nationalities Directeur général à la Chambre des Nationalités
SWE, U Tin Aung (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office, House of Representatives Directeur du Bureau du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
TUN, U Aung Win (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Speaker's Office, House of Representatives / Directeur adjoint du Bureau du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
MIN, Khun Htee (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Assistant Director, Speaker's Office, House of Representatives / Directeur assistant du Bureau du Président de la Chambre des Représentants
AUNG, Ye Thura (Mr./M.)	National Project Officer / Chargé de projet national

NAMIBIA – NAMIBIE

GURIRAB, Theo-Ben (Dr./M.) President of the Group, Honorary IPU President, Leader of the delegation / Président du Groupe, Président honoraire de l'UIP, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret (Mrs./Mme)	Vice-Chairperson of the National Council Vice-Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)
AMWEELO, Moses (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)
LUCKS, Heiko (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)
SHILENGA, Rosalia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)
GOWASES, Clara (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RP)
SHITALENI, Germina (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO) ⁶⁹
SHIMUTWIKENI, Panduleni (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe	Secretary General of the National Council Secrétaire générale du Conseil national

⁶⁸ (USDP: Union Solidarity and Development Party

/ Parti de la solidarité et du développement de l'Union)

⁶⁹ (SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization

/ Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress

/ Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)

(RP: Republican Party

/ Parti républicain)

JACOBS, Johannes Jakes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary, National Assembly Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale
ISAAK, Willem H. (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly Fonctionnaire parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale
KAUKUNGUA, Ndahafa (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Senior Information Officer Chargée principale de l'information
SHALI, Auguste (Mrs./Mme) Co-Secretary of the Group Co-Secrétaire du Groupe	Parliamentary Clerk, Committee Services, National Council / Greffière parlementaire, Service des Commissions du Conseil national
SHIPIKI, Ndapandula (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker Assistante particulière du Président
MOGANE, Patrick (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	Special Assistant to the Speaker Assistant particulier du Président
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam (Ms./Mme)	Private Secretary to the Vice-Chairperson Secrétaire particulière de la Vice-Présidente

NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

DIJKHOFF, Klaas (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (VVD)
WOLBERT, Agnes (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives of the States General / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux (PvdA)
DE BOER, Margreet (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (GL) ⁷⁰
BIESHEUVEL-VERMEIJDEN, Jacqueline (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives of the States General / Secrétaire générale de la Chambre des Représentants des Etats généraux
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate of the States General Secrétaire général du Sénat des Etats généraux
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Office Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires

NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

HENARE, Tau (Mr./M.) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen- Orient, Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Maori Affairs / Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des affaires maori (NP)
NORMAN, Russel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (G)
FENTON, Darien (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (L) ⁷¹
CUTTING, Steve (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Manager, Parliamentary Relations, Office of the Clerk Directeur des relations parlementaires du Bureau du Secrétaire général

⁷⁰ (VVD: Liberal Party
(PvdA: Labour Party
(GL: Green Left

⁷¹ (NP: National Party
(G: Green Party
(L: Labour Party

/ Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie)
/ Parti du travail)
/ Verts-gauche)
/ Parti national)
/ Les verts)
/ Parti travailliste)

NICARAGUA

MONTENEGRO, Iris Marina (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

First Vice-President of Parliament
Première Vice-Présidente du Parlement (FSLN) ⁷²

NIGER

MAÏZOUNBOU, Laoual Amadou (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARN)

NOUHOU, Daoudou (Mr./M.)
Rapporteur of the Group
Rapporteur du Groupe

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDN)

SAMAÏLA, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS)

IBRO NA-ALLA, Aoua (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS) ⁷³

SABO, Boubacar (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

ALIO, Issa (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Director, Cooperation / Directeur de la coopération

NIGERIA

MARK, David (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

President of the Senate / Président du Sénat (PDP)

IHEDIOHA, Chukwuemeka Nkem (Mr./M.)
Deputy Leader of the delegation
Chef adjoint de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

USMAN, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary
Affairs / Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires
parlementaires (PDP)

ESUENE, Helen (Ms./Mme)

Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Women Affairs
and Youth Development / Sénatrice, Présidente de la
Commission des affaires féminines et du développement
de la jeunesse (PDP)

BARATA, Ahmed Hassan (Mr./M.)

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Tourism and
National Orientation / Sénateur, Président de la Commission
de la culture, du tourisme et de l'orientation nationale (PDP)

REYENIEJU, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of
the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de
la Commission des relations interparlementaires (PDP)

DOGUWA, Ado Alhassan (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP)

UZAMERE, Ehigie Edobor (Mr./M.)
Advisor / Conseiller

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Local and
Foreign Debts / Sénateur, Président de la Commission
de la dette locale et étrangère (ACN)

IDRIS Sani, Mohammed (Mr./M.)
Adviser / Conseiller

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDP) ⁷⁴

⁷² (FSLN: Sandinista National Liberation Front

/ Front sandiniste de libération nationale)

⁷³ (ARN: Alliance for National Reconciliation
(MDN: Moden Fa Lumana - Niger Democratic Movement
(PNDS: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism
for an African Federation

/ Alliance pour la réconciliation nationale)
(Mouvement démocratique nigérien pour une fédération africaine)
(Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme)

⁷⁴ (PDP: People's Democratic Party
(ACN: Action Congress of Nigeria

/ Parti démocratique populaire)
(Congrès du Nigéria pour l'action)

EFETURI, Ben (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of the Senate / Secrétaire général du Sénat
AUDU, Rabi (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	
GARBA, Lawal (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Deputy Director / Directeur adjoint
ISAH, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer / Chargé des affaires étrangères
ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Clerk of the National Assembly Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
NDIWE, Arthur (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol to the President of the Senate Directeur du protocole auprès du Président du Sénat
OKE OPIA, Edward (Mr./M.)	Senior Special Assistant on Media Assistant spécial principal des médias
ANDOAVER, Ade Nguhar (Mr./M.)	Special Liaison Administrative Assistant Assistant administratif spécial de la liaison
OLOGBONDIYAN, Kola (Mr./M.)	Media Special Adviser / Conseiller spécial des médias
BADAMASI, Abubakar (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / Greffier de commission
OKO, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk / Greffier de commission
MARK, Igoche (Mr./M.)	Personal Assistant to the President of the Senate Assistant particulier du Président du Sénat
ESEKE, Augustin (Mr./M.) IPU Desk	Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Assistant administratif
MIRI, Abel (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the President Aide de camp du Président	Senate / Sénat
IBEH, Chuks (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Deputy Speaker Aide de camp du Vice-Président	House of Representatives / Chambre des Représentants
ADIGUN, Folashade (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Special Administrative Assistant Assistant administratif spécial

NORWAY – NORVEGE

HEGGØ, Ingrid (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (LP)
HENRIKSEN, Kari (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Storting / Membre du Storting (LP) ⁷⁵
DAHL HOTVEDT, Bjørnar (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation / Conseiller de la délégation	
HØGE, Anne Laila (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Senior Executive Officer / Administratrice principale

OMAN

AL-MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the Majles A'Shura Président du Majles A'Shura
AL FARSI, Fawziya (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Majles Addawla Membre du Majles Addawla
AL SADI, Khaled (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura

⁷⁵ (LP: Labour Party

/ Parti travailliste)

AL-SHAMSI, Rashed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL BASAIDIYA, Naama (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL RASHDI, Hamood (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Majles A'Shurah Membre du Majles A'Shura
AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the Majles A'Shurah Secrétaire général du Majles A'Shura
AL MASHANI, Said (Mr./M.) Adviser the Group / Conseiller du Groupe	Assistant Secretary General for Information and Public Relations / Secrétaire général adjoint de l'information et des relations publiques
AL NAIMI, Rashid (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Assistant Director, Chairman's Office Directeur adjoint du Bureau du Président
AL HASHMI, Wafa (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Head, Division of Electronic Information Chef de la Division de l'information électronique

PAKISTAN

SADIQ, Sardar Ayaz (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)
RAZA FAROOQ, Ayesha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)
QAMAR, Syed Naveed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP)
AZIZ, Daniyal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)
NAEK, Farooq H. (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PPPP)
BABAR, Farhatullah (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PPPP)
HUSSAIN SHAH, Syed Muhammad Ashiq (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
RAZA RABBANI, Mian (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Senator / Sénateur (PPPP)
KHAN ACHAKZAI, Muhammad Daud (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Senator / Sénateur (ANP) ⁷⁶
NIAZI, Karamat Hussain (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale
PERVEZ, Amjed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary, Senate / Secrétaire au Sénat
RAFI, Shazia Z. (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	
MURTAZA, Ghulam (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Joint Secretary, Senate / Co-Secrétaire au Sénat
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Joint Secretary, Speaker's Chamber Co-Secrétaire, Bureau du Président
SIAL, Anwar (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol to the Speaker Directeur du protocole du Président

⁷⁶ (PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz
(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians
(ANP: Awami National Party

/ Ligue musulmane pakistanaise Nawaz)
/ Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanaise)
/ Parti national Awami)

PALESTINE

AL-AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
AL-WAZIR, Intisar (Ms./Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
AL-SALHI, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
KOKALY, Foad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestine National Council Membre du Conseil national palestinien
KHREISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
AL-DEEK, Bashar (Mr./M.)	Administrative Assistant / Assistant administratif
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)	Administrative Assistant / Assistant administratif
AL-HOURANI, Taysir (Mr./M.)	Administrative Assistant / Assistant administratif

PANAMA

MARTÍNEZ, Abraham (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	First Vice-President of the National Assembly Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)
SALERNO, Noriel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on External Relations / Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Vice-Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (CD)
ARAÚZ, Rony (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (CD)
CASTILLO, Nancy (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)
PAREDES, Rogelio R. (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée législative (PRD) ⁷⁷
PROLL NUÑEZ, Roberto (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale

PERU – PEROU

LEÓN RIVERA, José Raguberto (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Congress of the Republic Membre du Congrès de la République (PP) ⁷⁸
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PHILIPPINES

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation / Vice-Président du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation	President of the Senate / Président du Sénat
CAYETANO, Pia (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice
MARCOS, Ferdinand Jr. (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur

⁷⁷ (CD: Democratic Change
(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party
⁷⁸ (PP: Perú Posible)

/ Changement démocratique)
/ Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)

DEL MAR, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires (LP) ⁷⁹
YABES, Oscar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary, Senate / Secrétaire au Sénat
De GUZMAN, Antonio Jr. (Mr./M.) Adviser, Secretary of the Group Conseiller, Secrétaire du Groupe	Director General / Directeur général
DE CHAVEZ, Cesar (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Director, Senate / Directeur au Sénat
DALEON III, Benjamin Paolo (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Technical Staff / Secrétariat
TORRES, Anthony (Mr./M.)	Executive Assistant / Assistant exécutif
REGINALDO, Maria Elizabeth C. (Ms./Mme)	Technical Staff / Secrétariat
LEPATAN, Denis (Mr./M.) Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to Geneva / Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent des Philippines à Genève	
LEPATAN, Maria Teresa (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève	
BAJA, Noralyn (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève	
FOS, Enrico (Mr./M.) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève	
TE, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) Permanent Mission of the Philippines to Geneva Mission permanente des Philippines à Genève	

POLAND – POLOGNE

ZIÓLKOWSKI, Marek (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Senator / Sénateur (PO)
STEFANIUK, Franciszek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PSL)
KLOC, Izabela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PiS)
MAZUREK, Beata (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm / Membre du Sejm (PiS) ⁸⁰
CZAPLA, Lech (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Sejm / Secrétaire général du Sejm
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Director, Analysis and Documentation Office, Chancellery of the Senate / Directrice du Bureau de l'analyse et de la documentation, Chancellerie du Sénat
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group and to the delegation / Secrétaire administratif du Groupe et de la délégation	

⁷⁹ (LP: Liberal Party

/ Parti libéral)

⁸⁰ (PO: Civic Platform

/ Plate-forme civique)

(PSL: Polish Peasant Party

/ Parti paysan polonais)

(PiS: Law and Justice

/ Droit et justice)

PORTUGAL

SILVA, Guilherme (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)
COSTA, Alberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)
PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)
CARDOSO, Paula (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD) ⁸¹
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
BOTELHO LEAL, Isabel (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Parliamentary Official / Assistante parlementaire

QATAR

AL-MEADADI, Rashid Hamad (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Advisory Council Membre du Conseil consultatif
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Secretariat of the Majlis Al-Shura / Chef de la Section de la publication et de la traduction du Secrétariat du Majlis Al-Choura
AL-DELAIMI, Ahmad Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Data Entry Administrative Section Section de saisie de données

REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHANG, Byoung-Wan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DP)
KIL, Jeong-Woo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)
KIM, Sang-Hoon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)
HAN, Jeoung-Ae (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DP) ⁸²
CHUNG, Jin-Suk (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
PARK, Tae-Hyung (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Director of the Proceedings Department Directeur du Département des procès-verbaux
KANG, Dae-Hun (Mr./M.)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference Department / Directeur du Département des conférences interparlementaires
HWANG, Young-Jun (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général
KIM, You-Jeong (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole

⁸¹ (PSD: Social Democratic Party

(PS: Socialist Party

⁸² (DP: Democratic Party

(SP: Saenuri Party)

/ Parti social démocratique)

/ Parti socialiste)

/ Parti démocratique)

CHA, Yeun-Kyeng (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Interpreter Membre de l'ASGP Interprète	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole
WOO, Jee Hyun (Ms./Mme) Coordinator / Coordinatrice	Programme Officer / Chargée de programme
HWANG, Dong-Chun (Mr./M.) Coordinator / Coordinateur	Programme Officer / Chargé de programme
CHOI, Eun-Young (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Interpreter Membre de l'ASGP, Interprète	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

COMȘA, Cornel-George (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Senator, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Sénateur, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères (PP-DD)
GRAMA, Horia (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)
ARDELEANU, Sandra-Maria (Mrs./Mme)	Senator / Sénateur (DLP)
MITU, Augustin-Constantin (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (SDP)
DONTU, Mihai-Aurel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Membre de la Chambre des Députés (NLP) ⁸³
GEORGIAN, Daniela Rodica (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Expert, General Division for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies / Experte à la Division générale des affaires étrangères de la Chambre des Députés

RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

VOROBIEV, Yury (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération
GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma, Chairman of the Committee on Property / Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Président de la Commission de la propriété (KPRF)
KIRICHUK, Stepan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation, Chairman of the Committee on the Federal Structure, Regional Policies, Local Self-Governance and Affairs of the North Membre du Conseil de la Fédération, Président de la Commission de la structure fédérale, de la politique régionale, de l'autogouvernance locale et des affaires de la région septentrionale
PETRENKO, Valentina (Mrs./Mme) Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law / Membre du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of the Council of the Federation Membre du Conseil de la Fédération
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Duma / Membre de la Douma d'Etat (United Russia) ⁸⁴
SVINAREV, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Council of the Federation Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Fédération

⁸³ (PP-DD: People's Party – Dan Diaconescu
(SDP: Social Democratic Party
(DLP: Democratic-Liberal Party
(NLP: National Liberal Party

⁸⁴ (KPRF: Communist Party
(United Russia

/ Parti du peuple – Dan Diaconescu
/ Parti social démocrate)
/ Parti libéral national)
/ Parti libéral national)
/ Parti communiste)
/ Russie unifiée)

KARTSEV, Nikolay (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Division Head, International Department, Council of the Federation / Chef du Département international, Conseil de la Fédération
LOZBINEV, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Head of the Secretariat of the Deputy Chairman of the Council of the Federation / Chef du Secrétariat du Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Senior Consultant, International Department, State Duma Consultant principal, Département international de la Douma d'Etat
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Mrs./Mme)	Chief Adviser, International Department, Council of the Federation / Conseillère en chef au Département international du Conseil de la Fédération
SHCHERBAKOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	
BOGDANOVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
TUREV, Pavel (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
BELOUSOVA, Veronika (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / Interprète	

SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN

TERENZI, Gianfranco (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)
CARDELLI, Alessandro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)
MULARONI, Mariella (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)
TOMASSONI, Mirko (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great General Council Membre du Grand Conseil général (PSD) ⁸⁵
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	

SAUDI ARABIA – ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALJEFRI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council Vice-Président du Conseil de la Choura
ALHUSSEINI, Saleh (Mr./M.) ⁰	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALANSARI, Lubna (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALGHAMDI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALADWAN, Nourah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council Membre du Conseil de la Choura
ALAMER, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général

⁸⁵ (PDCS: Christian Democratic Party
(PSD: Party of Socialists and Democrats

/ Parti démocrate-chrétien)
/ Parti des socialistes et des démocrates)

ALMANSOUR, Khalid Mohammed (Mr./M.)	General Manager of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department / Directeur général du Département des relations interparlementaires
ALHAMLAN, Manosur (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
ALHUDAITHY, Bader (Mr./M.) Interpreter / Interprète	
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Relations / Relations interparlementaires
FALLATAH, Adam (Mr./M.)	Secretary / Secrétaire
ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Secretary General's Office Secrétaire au Bureau du Secrétaire général
ALGHAMDI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
ALDHAISHI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Secretary / Secrétaire
ALQUBLAN, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Relations Officer Chargé des relations parlementaires
ALGAEED, Mishal (Mr./M.)	Public Relations / Relations publiques

SEYCHELLES

HERMINIE, Patrick (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PL) ⁸⁶
COMMETTANT, Shelda (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Director, Speaker's Office Directrice du Bureau du Président

SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR

LOW, Penny (Miss/Mlle) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (PAP)
ANG, Wei Neng (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (PAP)
CHEN, Show Mao (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (WP) ⁸⁷
KOH, Kiang Chay (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
TAN, Yee Woan (Ms./Mme) Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Singapore to Geneva / Ambassadeur, Représentante permanente de Singapour à Genève	

SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE

KLASINC, Janja (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Policy / Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission de la politique étrangère (PS)
ČRNAK-MEGLIČ, Andreja (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament, Chairperson of the Committee on Labour, Social Policy / Membre du Parlement, Présidente de la Commission du travail et de la politique sociale (SD)

⁸⁶ (PL: Parti Lepep)⁸⁷ (PAP: People's Action Party
(WP: Workers' Party/ Parti d'action populaire)
/ Parti des travailleurs)

HORVAT, Jožef (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs / Membre du Parlement, Président de la Commission des affaires européennes (NSI) ⁸⁸
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Head of the International Relations Department Chef du Département des relations internationales

SOMALIA – SOMALIE

ALI, Khalid Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People Membre de la Chambre du Peuple
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SOUTH AFRICA – AFRIQUE DU SUD

SISULU, Max Vuyisile (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
TAU, Johannes Raseriti (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
DLAKUDE, Dorries (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
SCHNEEMAN, Gregory (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)
SCHÄFER, Deborah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)
RAMATLAKANE, Leonard (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (COPE)
NTAPANE, Stanley (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UDM) ⁸⁹
SONJICA, Nomfundo (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / Conseillère
LEBEKO, Peter (Mr./M.)	Advisor / Conseiller
WILLIAMS, Lynette (Ms./Mme)	Researcher / Chercheuse
PAULSE, Cheryl Ann (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group and to the delegation Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation	Acting Team Leader / Chef d'équipe ad intérim
KHUZWAYO, June (Ms./Mme)	Administrative Officer / Fonctionnaire administrative
XASO, Masibulele (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary, National Assembly Secrétaire à l'Assemblée nationale
TYAWA, Penelope (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary to Parliament Secrétaire adjointe au Parlement
FUNISWA, Tiya (Ms./Mme) Secretary / Secrétaire	

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

⁸⁸ (PS: Positive Slovenia / Slovénie positive)
(SD: Social Democrats / Démocrates-sociaux)
(NSI: New Slovenia / Nouvelle Slovénie)

⁸⁹ (ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)
(DA: Democratic Alliance / Alliance démocratique)
(COPE: Congress of the People / Congrès du Peuple)
(UDM: United Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique uni)

GIL LAZARO, Ignacio (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)
MOSCOSO DEL PRADO, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)
TORME, Ana (Ms./Mme)	Senator / Sénatrice (PP)
MONTESERÍN, María Virtudes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)
PIGEM, Mercé (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Congress of Deputies Membre du Congrès des Députés (CiU) ⁹⁰
ALBA, Manuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Congress of Deputies Secrétaire général du Congrès des Députés
ALVAREZ PABLOS, Ana (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire générale adjointe du Sénat
BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	Head, Institutional Relations Department Chef du Département des relations institutionnelles
JUAREZ, M. Rosa (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administrative du Groupe	International Relations Department Département des relations internationales

SRI LANKA

DE SILVA, Nimal Siripala (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of Parliament, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Management / Membre du Parlement, Ministre de la gestion de l'irrigation et des ressources hydriques (UPFA)
SAMARASINGHE, Mahinda (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minister of Plantation Industries Membre du Parlement, Ministre du Secteur des plantations (UPFA)
WIJEWICKRAMA, Radampala Gamage S. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UPFA)
RAJAPAKSHE, Wijeyadasa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UNP)
SUMANTHIRAN, Mathiaparanan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (ITAK) ⁹¹
DASANAYAKE, Waruna Bandara (Mr./M.) Joint Secretary and Treasurer of the Group Co-Secrétaire et trésorier du Groupe	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
DASANAYAKE, Ekiriyaigala Pallewatte R. (Mrs./Mme)	Co-ordinating Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire coordinatrice du Secrétaire général

SUDAN – SOUDAN

EL HASSAN AL AMIN, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
EL SIDDIG, El Semaih (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
OSMAN GAKNOUN, Marwa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

⁹⁰ (PP: People's Party

(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party

(CiU: Convergence and Union

⁹¹ (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance

(UNP: United National Party

(ITAK: Lanka Tamil State Party

/ Parti populaire)

/ Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

/ Convergence et union)

/ Alliance de la liberté populaire unifiée)

/ Parti national unifié)

/ Parti de l'état tamoul du Lanka)

MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ABDALLA KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.)	Adviser / Conseiller
FADUL ABDEL GADIR, Thana (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe	Administrative Secretary / Secrétaire administrative

SURINAME

MISIEKABA, André (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
SANTOKHI, Chandrikapersad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
BONJASKI, Walter (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

SWEDEN – SUEDE

AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (m)
ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee Membre du Comité exécutif	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (s)
KARLSSON, Ulrika (Ms./Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Substitute Member of the Committee to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law / Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Membre suppléant du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (m)
NILSSON, Ulf (Mr./M.)	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (fp)
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient	Member of the Riksdag / Membre du Riksdag (s) ⁹²
MARTENSSON, Claes (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint
EKLÖF, Lena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / Secrétaire de la délégation	Secretary, International Department Secrétaire au Département international
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation	Deputy Secretary, International Department Secrétaire adjointe au Département international
TUNVED, Ann-Charlott (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Committee on Finance Secrétaire de la Commission des finances
LIND, Carl-Johan (Mr./M.) Intern / Stagiaire	

⁹² (m: Moderate Party
(s: Social Democratic Party
(fp: Liberal Party

/ Parti modéré)
/ Parti social-démocrate)
/ Parti libéral)

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

BIERI, Peter (Mr./M.) President of the Groupe, Leader of the delegation Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Council of States Membre du Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)
VEILLON, Pierre-François (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee Membre du Comité exécutif	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)
KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) (5-8/10) Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SP/PS)
MEIER-SCHATZ, Lucrezia (Ms./Mme) (9/10)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.) (7-8/10)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (FDP/PLR)
JANIAK, Claude (Mr./M.) (7-8/10)	Member of the Council of States Membre du Conseil des Etats (SP/PS)
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.) (9/10)	Member of the National Council Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC) ⁹³
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP / Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale
BUOL, Martina (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the Federal Assembly Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Assemblée fédérale
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group Secrétaire du Groupe	Deputy Head, International Relations Division Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales
WILDI-BALLABIO, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Substitute Secretary / Secrétaire suppléante
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Substitute Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire suppléant de la délégation	
MOREAU SHMATENKO, Léa (Ms./Mme) Intern / Stagiaire	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

MASHHADIEH, Khaleel (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
KUZBARI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
AL KHATEEB, Sameer (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
AL OJAILY, Maha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple
SHAHEEN, Elias (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple

⁹³ (CVP/PDC: Christian Democrat People's Party
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party
(SP/PS: Social Democratic Party
(FDP/PLR: The Liberals

/ Parti démocrate-chrétien)
/ Union démocratique du centre)
/ Parti socialiste)
/ Les libéraux-radicaux)

THAILAND – THAILANDE

TANBANJONG, Phairoj (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PT)
SITTHEEAMORN, Kiat (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DP)
KRAIRIKSH, Pikulkeaw (Mrs./Mme)	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate / Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat
JAISMUT, Suphachai (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BP) ⁹⁴
NIYAMAVEJA, Anurak (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / Membre du Sénat
BOONTONG, Tassana (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Member of the Senate / Membre du Sénat
KULSRI, Saharat (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the House of Representatives Membre de la Chambre des Représentants
NAKWATCHARACHAI, Suwichag (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
CHAOWALITTAWIL, Saithip (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire générale adjointe de la Chambre des Représentants
PRECHATANAPOJ, Somphong (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants
TANTIVONG, Anuvat (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Adviser on Legislative System
KHAMASUNDARA, Supasinee (Ms./Mme)	Advisor on Foreign Affairs, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Conseillère des affaires étrangères, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
KUNKLOY, Chollada (Ms./Mme)	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Directrice du Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire assistante de la délégation	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Directrice de la Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
KOTTHEN, Panya (Mr./M.) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants

⁹⁴ (PT: Pheu Thai Party
(DP: Democratic Party
(BP: Bhumjaithai Party

/ Parti Pheu Thai)
/ Parti démocratique)
/ Parti Bhumjaithai)

WIBOONPANUVEJ, Tana (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation	Foreign Relations Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargée des relations étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr./M.)	Foreign Relations Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargée des relations étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.) Secretary / Secrétaire	Director of the Association of Parliaments and Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments Division, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations / Directeur de la Division de l'Association des parlements et de l'Association des Secrétaires généraux de parlements, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants, Bureau des organisations interparlementaires
KHANTANIT, Russdy (Mr./M.)	Foreign Relations Officer, ASGP Division, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives / Chargé des relations étrangères, Division de l'ASGP du Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants
THONGPHAKDI, Thani (Mr./M.) Ambassador of Thailand in Geneva Ambassadeur de la Thaïlande à Genève	

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE

MAKRADULI, Jani (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the Assembly of the Republic Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République (SDSM)
BONEVA, Silvana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (VMRO)
JAKUPI, Nexhati (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (DUI)
ALIU, Imer (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (DPA)
MISOVSKI, Goran (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (NSDP)
DURMIŠI, Rejhan (Mr./M.) Adviser / Conseiller	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PEI) ⁹⁵
OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Head of the Division for Inter-Parliamentary Assemblies and Multilateral Cooperation / Chef de la Division des assemblées interparlementaires et de la coopération multilatérale

⁹⁵ (SDSM: Social Democratic Union / Union social-démocrate)
(VMRO: Democratic Party of the Macedonian National Unity / Parti démocrate pour l'unité nationale macédonienne)
(DUI: Democratic Union for Integration / Parti démocratique pour l'intégration)
(DPA: Democratic Party of the Albanians / Parti démocratique albanais)
(NSDP: New Social Democratic Party / Nouveau parti social-démocrate)
(PEI: Party for European Future / Parti pour l'avenir européen)

TIMOR-LESTE

DIAS XIMENES, David (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN)
NUNES, Duarte (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)
CORREIA, Brigida Antonia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT)
PEREIRA SOARES, Izilda Manuela da Luz (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Membre du Parlement national (CNRT) ⁹⁶
BELO XIMENES, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
MARTINS VAZ, Rui Manuel (Mr./M.) Adviser to the delegation Conseiller de la délégation	
SOARES, António Alexandre (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général
GOMES, Simplicio (Mr./M.)	Secretary / Secrétaire

TURKEY – TURQUIE

DAĞCI CIĞLIK, Fazilet (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation / Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
YILDIRIM, Murat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)
GÜNEŞ, Hurşit (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (CHP)
SERTER, Fatma Nur (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (CHP)
KORKMAZ, Süleyman (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (MHP)
ERSOY, Mehmet (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)

⁹⁶ (FRETILIN: Revolutionary Front for an independent East Timor / Front révolutionnaire pour l'indépendance du Timor-Leste)
(CNRT: National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor-Leste / Congrès national pour la reconstruction du Timor)

BAYAZIT KAÇAR, Sevde (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseiller	Member of the Grand National Assembly Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP) ⁹⁷
NEZIROGLU, Irfan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ŞAKIR ATIK, Tolga (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations and Protocol Department / Chef adjoint du Département des relations étrangères et du protocole
AGAÇ, Isa Yusuf (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
AKDEMIR, Buket (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
USLU, Yesim (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Secretary to the Secretary General Secrétaire du Secrétaire général

UGANDA – OUGANDA

KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation / Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation	Speaker of Parliament / Présidente du Parlement (NRM)
DOMBO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Substitute Member of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law Membre suppléant du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (NRM)
AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme) Second Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians / Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (UPC)
OKUMU, Reagan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (FDC)
KIYINGI BBOSA, Kenneth (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement (Ind) ⁹⁸
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk to Parliament / Secrétaire générale
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Clerk, Legislative Services Greffier adjoint, Services législatifs
KASIRYE, Ignatius (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, International Collaboration Directeur adjoint de la collaboration internationale
ODEKE, Peter (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
KASULE, Ali Kabuye (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole
BAMUWAMYE, James (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

⁹⁷ (AKP: Justice and Development Party
(CHP: Republican People's Party
(MHP: Nationalist Movement Party
⁹⁸ (NRM: National Resistance Movement
(UPC: Uganda People's Congress
(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change
(Ind: Independent

/ Parti de la justice et du développement)
/ Parti populaire républicain)
/ Parti d'action nationaliste)
/ Mouvement de la Résistance nationale)
/ Congrès populaire de l'Ouganda)
/ Forum pour un changement démocratique)
/ Indépendant)

NYAMWENGE, Alice (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

BROWNFIELD, Christine (Ms./Mme)

Personal Assistant / Assistante particulière

MUTESI, Ruth (Ms./Mme)
Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp de la Présidente

TWINOMUGISHA, Lemmy (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / Agent de sécurité

UKRAINE

GERASHCHENKO, Iryna (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada, First Deputy Chair,
Committee on European Integration / Membre du
Verkhovna Rada, Première Vice-Présidente de la
Commission de l'intégration européenne (UDAR)

LUNCHENKO, Valery (Mr./M.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada
Membre du Verkhovna Rada (B)

DONIY, Oleksandr (Mr./M.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada
Membre du Verkhovna Rada (Ind)

SOROKA, Mykola (Mr./M.)

Member of the Verkhovna Rada, Deputy Chair, Committee
on Science and Education / Membre du Verkhovna Rada,
Vice-Président de la Commission de la science et de
l'éducation (PR)⁹⁹

MARKOV, Dmytro (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Deputy Secretary General of the Verkhovna Rada
Secrétaire général adjoint du Verkhovna Rada

FURMAN, Oleksandr (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Deputy Head of Division / Chef adjoint de division

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS ARABES UNIS

AL QUBAISI, Amal Abdulla (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Chairperson of the Federal National Council
Première Vice-Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération

AL SHURAIQI, Rashed Mohammed (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

AL MANSOORI, Ahmed Obaid (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALTENAIJI, Faisal (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

ALNUAIMI, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the Federal National Council
Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération

AL SHAMSI, Abdulrahman Ali (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Assistant Secretary General of the Federal National Council
Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil national de la Fédération

AL BLOUSHI, Hamda (Mr./M.)

Head of Research and Parliamentary Studies
Chef de la recherche et des études parlementaires

AL SHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)

Head, Communication Section
Chef de la Section de la communication

AL AQILI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Parliamentary Researcher / Chercheur parlementaire

⁹⁹ (UDAR: Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform
(B: Batkivshchyna)
(Ind: Independent
(PR: Party of Regions

/ Parti de l'alliance démocratique ukrainienne pour les reformes)
/ Indépendant)
/ Parti des régions)

ALNAJJAR, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)

Head, Strategic Partnerships
Chef des partenariats stratégiques

AL MUHAIRI, Saeed (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

Rt. Hon. CLWYD, Ann (Mrs./Mme)

Substitute Member of the Committee on the
Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the
delegation / Membre suppléant du Comité des
droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la
délégation

Member of the House of Commons

Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)

Rt. Hon. DHOLAKIA OBE DL, Navnit (Lord)

Member of the House of Lords

Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)

JUDD OF PORTSEA, Frank (Lord)

Member of the House of Lords

Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)

MILLER OF CHILTHORNE DOMER, Susan
(Baroness)

Member of the House of Lords

Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)

LIDDELL-GRAINER, Ian (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons

Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C) ¹⁰⁰

NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.)

Director / Directeur

LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Mrs./Mme)

International Project Manager

Chef de projets internationaux

OSTLER, Sophia (Ms./Mme)

International Project Manager

Chef de projets internationaux

PICHÉ, Nicole (Ms./Mme)

Human Rights Advisor

Conseillère aux droits de l'homme

NATZLER, David (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Clerk Assistant, House of Commons

Greffier assistant, Chambre des Communes

WALTERS, Rhodri (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP

Reading Clerk and Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of
Lords / Secrétaire général adjoint et Secrétaire du Service
des affaires étrangères

MARK, Steven (Mr./M.)

Joint Secretary of the ASGP

Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP

STURT, Jenny (Ms./Mme)

ASGP Secretariat / Secrétariat de l'ASGP

COMMANDER, Emily (Ms./Mme)

ASGP Secretariat / Secrétariat de l'ASGP

PIERCE, Karen (Ms./Mme)

Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Geneva

Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni à Genève

RYCROFT, Theo (Mr./M.)

Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in
Geneva / Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni
à Genève

REQUEJO, Lucia (Ms./Mme)

Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in
Geneva / Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni
à Genève

TURNER, Ruth (Ms./Mme)

Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom in

¹⁰⁰ (L: Labour Party
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats
(C: Conservative Party

/ Parti travailliste)
/ Démocrates libéraux)
/ Parti conservateur)

Geneva / Mission permanente du Royaume-Uni
à Genève

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA – REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

MAKINDA, Anne (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

LYIMO, Susan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Spokesperson of
the Committee on Education and Vocational Training
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Porte-parole de la
Commission de l'éducation et de la formation
professionnelle (CHADEMA)

MOHAMED, Rashid (Mr./M.)
Member of the Standing Committee on Sustainable
Development, Finance and Trade / Membre de la
Commission permanente du développement
durable, du financement et du commerce

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CUF)

KAFULILA, David (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCCR-Mageuzi)

KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM) ¹⁰¹

ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Director/Adviser, Speaker's Office
Directeur/Conseiller au Bureau de la Présidente

WARBURG, James (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / Secrétaire du Groupe

Assistant Director, Table Office Department
Directeur adjoint du Service de l'ordre du jour

MWAKASEGE, Alphonse Martin (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp de la Présidente

HOKORORO, Suzan Peter (Ms./Mme)
Assistant Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp adjointe de la Présidente

URUGUAY

CARDOSO, Germán (Mr./M.)
Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PC)

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs./Mme)
Member of the Executive Committee, ex officio
Member of the Coordinating Committee of
Women Parliamentarians / Membre du Comité
exécutif, Membre de droit du Comité de
coordination des Femmes parlementaires

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)

PENADES, Gustavo (Mr./M.)

Senator / Sénateur (PN)

MAHÍA, José Carlos (Mr./M.)
Member of the Advisory Group of the IPU
Committee on United Nations Affairs
Membre du Groupe consultatif de la Commission
UIP des affaires des Nations Unies

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)

¹⁰¹ (CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania
(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development
(CUF: Civic United Front
(NCCR-Mageuzi: National Convention for Construction
and Reform - Mageuzi

/ Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)
/ Parti de la démocratie et du développement)
/ Front civique unifié)
/ Convention nationale pour la construction et la
réforme - Mageuzi

GALLINAL, Francisco (Mr./M.)	Senator / Sénateur (PN) ¹⁰²
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the House of Representatives Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants
SÁNCHEZ, Gustavo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Senate Secrétaire général du Sénat
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC	Head of the International Relations Department Directeur du Département des relations internationales
GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Group, GRULAC Secretariat Conseillère du Groupe, Secrétariat du GRULAC	International Relations Department Département des relations internationales

VENEZUELA

REQUENA, Gladys (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)
MARQUINA DIAZ, Alfonso José (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNT) ¹⁰³
MARTIN UBIEDA, Alejandro (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	

VIET NAM

HUYNH NGOC SON (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
TRAN VAN HANG (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee / Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères
NGUYEN THANH HAI (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
VU HAI HA (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CPV) ¹⁰⁴
TRUONG VAN VO (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
TRINH XUAN AN (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director General, Secretary to the Vice- President / Directeur général adjoint, Secrétaire du Vice-Président
DAO DUY TRUNG (Mr./M.)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary and Research Division, Foreign Affairs Department / Chef de la Division interparlementaire et de la recherche du Département des affaires étrangères
DANG VAN THI (Mr./M.) Security Officer / Agent de sécurité	
BUI THU PHUONG (Ms./Mme)	Staff, Foreign Affairs Department Secrétariat du Département des affaires étrangères

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

LUNGU, Mkhondo (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)
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¹⁰² (PC: Colorado Party / Parti Colorado)
(FA: Frente Amplio (Broad Front) / Front élargi)
(PN: National Party / Parti national)

¹⁰³ (PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela)
(UNT: (Un Nuevo Tiempo) A New Era / Un nouveau temps)

¹⁰⁴ (CPV: Communist Party / Parti communiste)

MONDE, Greyford (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)
KAZABU, Luxon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)
MWIIMBU, Jacob (Mr./M.) Member of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade / Membre de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)
KALIMA, Victoria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD) ¹⁰⁵
MWINGA, Katai Doris (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP, Secretary of the Group Membre de l'ASGP, Secrétaire du Groupe	Clerk of the National Assembly Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale
MANDA, Iréné (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Assistant Principal Clerk for Public and International Relations / Chargée principale adjointe des relations publiques et internationales
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer / Chargée du protocole

ZIMBABWE

MUDENDA, Jacob Francis (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker of the National Assembly Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF) ¹⁰⁶
ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of Parliament / Secrétaire général
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.)	Director, Clerk's Office Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général
GWAKWARA, Cleophas (Mr./M.)	Principal External Relations Officer Chargé principal des relations extérieures
MUNKOMBWE, Panganai (Mr./M.)	Security Aide to the Speaker of the National Assembly Agent de sécurité du Président de l'Assemblée nationale

II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS – MEMBRES ASSOCIES

ARAB PARLIAMENT PARLEMENT ARABE

ESSED, Noureddine (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Deputy President / Vice-Président
AL ARAI, Shaikha (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
ALJESHI, Bahiya (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
ZVOMA, Austin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Clerk of Parliament / Secrétaire général
FAWZY, Maye (Ms./Mme) Adviser / Conseillère	External Relations / Relations extérieures

¹⁰⁵ (MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy
(UPND: United Party for National Development
(PF: Patriotic Front

/ Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste)
/ Parti uni pour le développement national)
/ Front patriotique)

¹⁰⁶ (ZANU-PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY
OF CENTRAL AFRICA (CEMAC)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE**

MAVOUNGOU BOUYOU, Vincent (Mr./M.)	President / Président
NSOBEYA, Santiago (Mr./M.)	Vice-President / Vice-Président
ABBA SIDICK, Amine (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr./M.)	Administrative Secretary / Secrétaire administratif
MEDOUA EBOUE, Didier Marcellin (Mr./M.)	Director, President's Cabinet Directeur du Cabinet du Président

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE (ALEA)**

ZZIWA, Nantongo Margaret (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Speaker / Présidente
MOSSI, Hafsa (Mr./M.)	Member / Membre
BONAYA, Sarah (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
NAKAWUKI, Susan (Ms./Mme)	Member / Membre
OBATRE LUMUMBA, Alex (Mr./M.)	Deputy Clerk / Secrétaire général adjoint
ODIKO, Bobi (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker Assistante particulière de la Présidente

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

DJIBO, Ali Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – PARLEMENT EUROPEEN

KARAS, Othmar (Mr./M.)	Vice-President / Vice-Président
BAJTAY, Péter (Mr./M.) Advisor / Conseiller	

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE OF THE WEST AFRICAN ECONOMIC
AND MONETARY UNION (WAEMU)
COMITE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION ECONOMIQUE
ET MONETAIRE OUEST-AFRICAINE (UEMOA)**

DIOP, Amadou Mame (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / Chef de la délégation	Vice-President / Vice-Président
TRAORE, Mélégué (Mr./M.)	Vice-President / Vice-Président
BAKALI, Yobate Kolani (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament / Membre du Parlement
IDI GADO, Boubacar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
TOURE, Amadou Toumani (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN**

REYES, Sigfrido (Mr./M.) Second Vice-President of the GRULAC, Leader of the delegation / Deuxième Vice-Président du GRULAC, Chef de la délégation	Vice-President, President of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador / Vice-Président, Président de l'Assemblée législative d'El Salvador
CABEZAS, Rodrigo (Mr./M.)	Vice-President (Venezuela) / Vice-Président (Venezuela)
AROSEMENA, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member (Panama) / Membre (Panama)
AQUILES MORENO, Luis (Mr./M.)	Member (Venezuela) / Membre (Venezuela)
APARICIO, Victorino (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Secretariat of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Assistant au Secrétariat des affaires interparlementaires
SANCHEZ, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) Advisor / Conseillère	Protocol Officer / Chargé du protocole

III. OBSERVERS – OBSERVATEURS

**UNITED NATIONS (UN)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)**

CASINI, Gherardo (Mr./M.), Head, UN DESA Office in Rome / Chef du Bureau ONU DAES à Rome

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA)**

TIMBERLAKE, Susan (Mrs./Mme), Chief, Human Rights and Law Division / Responsable de la Division lois et droits de l'homme

BAUERLE, Cheryl (Mrs./Mme), Senior Advisor to the Deputy Executive Director / Conseillère principale du Directeur exécutif adjoint

EBA, Patrick (Mr./M.), Program Officer, Human Rights and Law / Chargé de programme, Division lois et droits de l'homme

SIGURDSON, Jason (Mr./M.), Program Officer, Human Rights and Law / Chargé de programme, Division lois et droits de l'homme

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group / Conseiller parlementaire, Groupe de la gouvernance démocratique

KARORERO, Pascal (Mr./M.), Resident Representative, Burkina Faso / Représentant résident, Burkina Faso

**UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA POPULATION (FNUAP)**

ARMITAGE, Alanna (Ms./Mme), Director, Geneva Office / Directrice du Bureau de Genève

ALYANAK, Leyla (Ms./Mme), Deputy Director, Geneva Office / Directrice adjointe du Bureau de Genève

GEHRKE, Laura (Ms./Mme), External Relations Officer / Chargée des relations extérieures

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

PONET, David (Mr./M.), Parliamentary Specialist / Spécialiste parlementaire

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

ALMUZANI, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.), Director, Liaison Office in Geneva / Directeur du Bureau de liaison à Genève

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES**

RIERA, José (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser / Conseiller principal
 MANLY, Mark (Mr./M.), Head, Stateless Unit / Responsable de l'Unité de l'apatridie
 ABEBE, Alehone (Mr./M.), Legal Officer / Conseiller légal
 GOVIL, Radha (Ms./Mme), Consultant Statelessness / Consultante sur l'apatridie

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (UNISDR)
BUREAU DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LA REDUCTION DES RISQUES DE CATASTROPHE (SIPC)**

WAHLSTRÖM, Margareta (Ms./Mme), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction / Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe
 TOSCANO-RIVALTA, Marco (Mr./M.), Adviser to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General / Conseiller de la Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies
 KAN, Feng Min (Ms./Mme), Senior Coordinator / Coordinatrice principale
 VELAZQUEZ, German (Mr./M.), Chief of the Advocacy and Outreach Section / Chef de la Section sensibilisation et information
 TORELLI, Sophie (Ms./Mme), Special Assistant, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General / Assistante spéciale au Bureau de la Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies
 McCLEAN, Denis (Mr./M.), Chief, Communication and Outreach / Chef de la communication et de l'information
 THORLUND, Ana Cristina (Ms./Mme), Programme Officer / Chargée de programme

**UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,
LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES
(UN-OHRLS)**

**BUREAU DU HAUT REPRESENTANT POUR LES PAYS LES MOINS AVANCES, LES PAYS EN
DEVELOPPEMENT SANS LITTORAL ET LES PETITS ETATS INSULAIRES EN DEVELOPPEMENT DES
NATIONS UNIES**

ACHARYA, Gyan Chandra (Mr./M.), Under-Secretary-General and High Representative / Sous-Secrétaire général et Haut Représentant
 GONZÁLEZ, Tomás (Mr./M.), Economic Affairs Officer / Chargé des affaires économiques

**UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540
RESOLUTION 1540 DU CONSEIL DE SECURITE DES NATIONS UNIES**

OH JOON (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Chair of the 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York / Ambassadeur, Président du Comité 1540, Représentant permanent de la République de Corée auprès des Nations Unies à New York
 IL HOON KIM (Mr./M.), Advisor / Conseiller
 TAYLOR, Terence (Mr./M.), Expert Group Coordinator / Coordinateur du Groupe d'experts

**UN WOMEN
ONU FEMMES**

BALLINGTON, Julie (Ms./Mme), Advisor on Political Participation, Leadership and Governance Section
 Conseillère pour la participation politique, Section Leadership et gouvernance

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

SOFIA, Silvano (Mr./M.), Consultant, Public Information and External Relations, Liaison Office with the United Nations in Geneva / Consultant, Information publique et relations extérieures, Bureau de liaison avec les Nations Unies à Genève

**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (OHCHR)
HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME**

NDIAYE, Bacre (Mr./M.), Director, Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division / Directeur de la Division des procédures des droits de l'homme

SALAMA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.), Director, Human Rights Treaty Division / Chef du Service des Traités et du Conseil

NIKIFOROV, Anton (Mr./M.), Executive Office / Bureau Exécutif

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE (ILO)
BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DU TRAVAIL (BIT)**

ROMERO, Ana Teresa (Ms./Mme), Deputy Director of the Multilateral Department / Directrice adjointe du Département multilatéral

MARTINOT-LAGARDE, Pierre (Mr./M.), Special Adviser, Partnership and Field Support Department / Conseiller spécial, Département des partenariats et de la coopération au développement

SMITH, Daniel (Mr./M.), Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia / Bureau régional pour l'Europe et l'Asie centrale

MALDONADO, Cristina (Ms./Mme), Partnership and Field Support Department / Département des partenariats et de la coopération au développement

OLNEY, Shauna (Ms./Mme), Head, Equality and Migrant Workers Unit / Chef du Service de l'égalité pour les travailleurs migrants

EGULU, Lawrence (Mr./M.), Economist, Multilateral Cooperation Department / Economiste, Département de la Coopération multilatérale

**WORLD BANK
BANQUE MONDIALE**

PIDUFALA, Oksana (Ms./Mme), Policy Officer/ Chargée des politiques

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

TEMMERMANN, Marleen (Ms./Mme), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research / Directrice du Département Santé reproductive et recherche

SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer, Department of Reproductive Health and Research / Responsable technique du Département Santé reproductive et recherche

**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE (OMC)**

EL HACHIMI, Said (Mr./M.), Adviser, Information and External Relations Division / Conseiller, Division de l'information et des relations extérieures

**COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)
ORGANISATION DU TRAITE D'INTERDICTION COMPLETE DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES (OTICE)**

LI, Genxin (Mr./M.), Legal and External Relations Division / Division des relations juridiques et extérieures

ABELA HAMPEL, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme), External Relations Officer / Chargée des relations extérieures

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**AFRICAN UNION (AU)
UNION AFRICAINE (UA)**

OLABISI, Dare (Mr./M.), Member / Membre

**ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

KHORRAM, Ali (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)**

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général
CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / Directeur

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE (UIPA)**

BOUCHKOUJ, Noureddine (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**ASSOCIATION OF SENATES, SHOORA AND EQUIVALENT COUNCILS IN AFRICA AND THE
ARAB WORLD (ASSECAA)
ASSOCIATION DES SENATS, SHOORA ET CONSEILS EQUIVALENTS D'AFRIQUE ET DU
MONDE ARABE**

YUSUF ALI, Abdulwasie (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EURASEC)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EURASIENNE**

SLUCHEVSKIY, Viacheslav (Mr./M.), Deputy of the Executive Secretary / Secrétaire exécutif adjoint
SAIDAMIROV, Bakhodur (Mr./M.), Councillor / Conseiller

**INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
(IPU-IGAD)
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'AUTORITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE
POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (UIP-IGAD)**

BOURHAN, Daoud Ahmed (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**

MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General, Member of the ASGP / Secrétaire général, Membre de l'ASGP

**ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
(OSCE PA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION EN
EUROPE (AP OSCE)**

OLIVER, Spencer (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général
BAKER, Andreas (Mr./M.), Senior Advisor / Conseiller principal

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (PABSEC)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

TRETIK, Kyrylo (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)**

PIAZZI, Sergio (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC-SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE**

ASANOV, Jandos (Mr./M.), Secretary General, Member of the ASGP / Secrétaire général, Membre de l'ASGP

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

SENKO, Vladimir (Mr./M.), Committee Chairman / Président de commission
BORTSOV, Nikolay (Mr./M.), Committee Deputy Chairman / Vice-Président de commission

PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEMBER STATES (PUIC)
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA CONFERENCE ISLAMIQUE (UPCI)

EROL KLIC, Mahmud (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / Secrétaire général adjoint

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GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)
CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES - GENEVE

GYA, Giji (Ms./Mme), Head, Programmes on Asylum, Migration and Counter-Human Trafficking (THB) / Chef des programmes sur l'asile, les migrations et la traite des êtres humains

THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA
LE FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME

ROBINSON, Svend (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Parliamentary Relations and Special Initiatives / Conseiller spécial des relations parlementaires et des initiatives spéciales

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)

HELLE, Daniel (Mr./M.), Diplomatic Advisor / Conseiller diplomatique

BOUVIER, Antoine (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser / Conseiller juridique

WEIZMANN, Nathalie (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser / Conseillère juridique

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (IDEA)
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL POUR LA DEMOCRATIE ET L'ASSISTANCE ELECTORALE (IDEA)

KANDAWASVIKA-NHUNDU, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme), Senior Programme Manager / Responsable principale de programme

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)
PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT

PRESERN, Carole (Ms./Mme), Executive Director / Directrice exécutive

McDOUGALL, Lori (Ms./Mme), Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Advocacy / Chargée principale, Policy and Advocacy

DE FRANCISCO, Andres (Mr./M.), Deputy Executive Director / Directeur exécutif adjoint

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONALE SOCIALISTE

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / Secrétaire général

PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Adviser / Conseillère

WEIDENBACH, Sophie (Ms./Mme), Adviser / Conseillère

PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS (ASGP) AND WHOSE NAMES DO NOT ALREADY APPEAR UNDER A NATIONAL DELEGATION, AN OBSERVER OR ANY OTHER BODY

PARTICIPANTS AUX TRAVAUX DE L'ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES GENERAUX DES PARLEMENTS (ASGP) DONT LE NOM NE FIGURE PAS DEJA AU TITRE D'UNE DELEGATION NATIONALE, D'UN OBSERVATEUR OU D'UNE AUTRE ENTITE

LUXEMBOURG

FRIESEISEN, Claude (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
BARRA, Isabelle (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General, Head, International Relations Service / Secrétaire générale adjointe, Responsable du Service des relations internationales
ROTH, Georges (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Officer / Fonctionnaire

MADAGASCAR

RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Calvin (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Secretary General of the Transitional Congress Secrétaire général du Congrès de la Transition
RAMANGALAHY, Rahantamalala Emmeline (Ms./Mme)	Administrative and Financial Director Directrice administrative et financière

SENEGAL

CISSE, Baye Niass (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly / Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale
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**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

SAWICKI, Wojciech (Mr./M.)	Secretary General / Secrétaire général
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SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 129th ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA 129^{ème} ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

GUTERRES, António (Mr./M.), UN High Commissioner for Refugees / Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

PILLAY, Navanethem (Ms./Mme), UN High Commissioner for Human Rights / Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies aux droits de l'homme

**PANEL DISCUSSIONS
REUNIONS-DEBAT**

Panel discussion on the theme «Towards risk-resilient development: Taking into consideration demographic trends and natural constraints»

Réunion-débat sur le thème «Pour un développement résilient face aux risques : prendre en compte l'évolution démographique et les contraintes naturelles»

WAHLSTRÖM, Margareta (Ms./Mme), United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction / Représentante spéciale du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la réduction des risques de catastrophe

TEMERMANN, Marleen (Ms./Mme), Director, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, WHO
Directrice du Département Santé reproductive et recherche, OMS

**Panel discussion on the theme «The role of parliaments in protecting the rights of children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children, and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict»
Réunion-débat sur le thème «Protéger les droits des enfants, en particulier des enfants migrants non accompagnés, et empêcher l'exploitation des enfants dans les situations de guerre et de conflit : le rôle des parlements»**

MATTAR, Mohamed (Mr./M.), Professor of Law, Executive Director, The Protection Project, Johns Hopkins University
Professeur de droit, Directeur général du projet "The Protection Project", Université de Johns Hopkins

AUBIN, Louise (Ms./Mme), Global Protection Cluster Coordinator, UNHCR / Coordinatrice du Groupe de protection globale, HCR

**Panel discussion on the theme «Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the contribution of parliaments»
Réunion-débat sur le thème «Pour un monde exempt d'armes nucléaires : la contribution des parlements»**

DENGO, Manuel (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica / Ambassadeur / Mission permanente du Costa Rica

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator, PNND / Coordonnateur mondial de PNND

**Panel discussion on the theme «Internally Displaced Persons»
Réunion-débat sur le thème «Personnes déplacées dans leur propre pays»**

TÜRK, Volker (Mr./M.), Director of International Protection, UNHCR / Directeur de la protection internationale du HCR

ZAMUDIO, Alfredo (Mr./M.), Director, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) / Directeur de l'Observatoire des situations de déplacement interne

**IPU COMMITTEE ON UN AFFAIRS
COMMISSION UIP DES AFFAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

**Session 1 : Interaction between national parliaments and UN country teams
Séance 1: Interaction entre les parlements nationaux et les équipes de pays de l'ONU**

EHOUZOU, Jean-Marie, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in Geneva
Ambassadeur, Observateur permanent de l'Union africaine auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

KARORERO, Pascal (Mr./M.), UNDP Resident Representative, Burkina Faso / Représentant résident du PNUD, Burkina Faso

**Session 2: Follow-up on the fourth UN Conference on the LDCs (LDC-IV)
Séance 2 : Suivi du programme d'action d'Istanbul 2011 en faveur des pays les moins avancés (PMA-IV)**

ACHARYA, Gyan Chandra (Mr./M.), Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the LDCs / Sous-Secrétaire général et Haut Représentant des PMA

KARORERO, Pascal (Mr./M.), UNDP Resident Representative, Burkina Faso / FPRéSReprésentant résident du PNUD, Burkina Faso

EHOUZOU, Jean-Marie, Ambassador, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in Geneva
Ambassadeur, Observateur permanent de l'Union africaine auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

**Session 1: Implications of and action on the recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty
Séance 1 : Incidences du Traité sur le commerce des armes adopté récemment, et mesures de suivi**

WOOLCOTT, Peter (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Australia / Ambassadeur, Mission permanente de l'Australie

SAREVA, Jarmo (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General, UN Conference on Disarmament / Secrétaire général adjoint de la Conférence du Désarmement

WEIZMANN, Nathalie (Ms./Mme), Legal Adviser, Arms Unit, ICRC / Conseillère juridique, spécialisée dans la question de disponibilité des armes, CICR

PAYNE, Namdi (Ms./Mme), Permanent Mission of Australia / Mission permanente de l'Australie

Session 2: Implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 (Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction)

Séance 2 : Application de la résolution 1540 du Conseil de sécurité des Nations Unies (visant à empêcher la prolifération des armes de destruction massive chez les acteurs non étatiques)

OH JOON (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Chair of the 1540 Committee and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York / Ambassadeur, Président du Comité 1540, Représentant permanent de la République de Corée auprès des Nations Unies à New York

SIDHU, Waheguru Pal Singh (Mr./M.), Senior Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University / Agrégé supérieur au Centre de la coopération internationale de l'Université de New York

SPENCE, Scott (Mr./M.), Senior Legal Officer, VERTIC, London / Conseiller juridique principal, VERTIC, Londres

Promoting international commitments and defending the rights of vulnerable groups

Promouvoir les engagements internationaux et défendre les droits des groupes vulnérables

Segment 1: Indigenous peoples

Séance 1 : Peuples autochtones

GALLEGOS, Luis (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Ecuador (moderator) / Ambassadeur, Equateur (modérateur)

TSYKAREV, Alexey (Mr./M.), Member of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples / Membre du Mécanisme d'experts sur les droits des peuples autochtones des Nations Unies

SCHICK, Manon (Ms./Mme), Director of the Swiss Section of Amnesty International / Directrice de la Section suisse d'Amnesty International

Segment 2: Persons with disabilities

Séance 2 : Personnes handicapées

GALLEGOS, Luis (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Ecuador (moderator) / Ambassadeur, Equateur (modérateur)

BOGOPANE, Hendrietta (Ms./Mme), Member of the South African Parliament / Membre du Parlement sud-africain

LEE, Victoria (Ms./Mme), International Disability Alliance

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

BUREAU DU PRÉSIDENT DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE

EL KHETTAR, Hassan (Mr./M.)

Head of the Office of the President
Chef du Bureau du Président