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TOWARDS RISK-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT: TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND NATURAL CONSTRAINTS

***Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs
Mr. S.H. Chowdhury (Bangladesh) and Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium)***

The 130th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Expressing deep concern* at the continued mounting impact and risk of disasters worldwide, which threaten people's lives and livelihoods, derail socio-economic development and damage the environment,
- (2) *Noting* that disasters, especially those resulting from climate change and exacerbated by population growth and distribution, have been identified by the international community, for instance in the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference, as major challenges for sustainable development,
- (3) *Recognizing* the urgent need to integrate policies and programmes on disaster risk reduction, climate change, demographic dynamics and environmental protection, so as to be able to address the underlying causes of disaster risk,
- (4) *Also recognizing* that global population growth, which is expected to continue for several more decades, and demographic distribution, especially increased population density and urbanization, heighten vulnerability to disasters and that the demographic factor has a direct effect on food security and self-sufficiency in areas that are prone to drought-induced famine and malnutrition,
- (5) *Underscoring* that demographic dynamics are a significant contributor to climate change and disaster risk insofar as they place additional stress on natural resources, heighten the vulnerability of communities to natural hazards and add to the human impact on ecosystems, primarily by increasing demands for food, fresh water, timber and fuel,
- (6) *Affirming* that all women have the right to plan their own lives, including when and whether to have children, and *stressing* that unintended pregnancy is the factor of continued population growth most amenable to policy intervention,
- (7) *Convinced* that addressing disaster risk resilience and population dynamics in the context of sustainable development is a matter of political responsibility and that parliamentarians have a critical role to play in ensuring that the political will exists to achieve results through legislation, policy oversight and the allocation of resources,
- (8) *Underscoring* the need for education at all levels and the importance of winning over local players in order to raise awareness of disaster risk resilience and related demographic issues and to galvanize public support for the necessary measures,

1. *Calls on* all members of parliament to acquire information on and knowledge of issues related to disaster and risk trends, so as to enhance their oversight role in reducing the impact and risk of disasters and protect people and socio-economic development from disasters and climate change;
2. *Also calls on* all members of parliament to take immediate action to review existing legislation related to disaster risk reduction, so as to determine whether it is sufficient to hold key players, including policymakers and the private sector, to account for the consequences of risk-intensive development policies or investments;
3. *Appeals* to all governments to take immediate action to review national policies and regulations so as to ensure that socio-economic development is balanced against the need to reduce the risk, to the population and the economy, of disasters in the long run, as more engagement is needed to keep development policies and practices coherent and aligned with those for disaster risk reduction, environmental protection and adaptation to climate change;
4. *Also appeals* to all governments to improve and enhance their mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and ensure that development policy and strategies build the disaster risk resilience of their people and the economy by improving legislation, institutional frameworks, policy and accountability for disaster-resilient development;
5. *Urges* the United Nations system and other international and intergovernmental organizations to promote disaster risk assessment as a precondition for decisions on social initiatives, economic programmes and investment at national level and to be a role model for improved governance for disaster risk reduction by advocating the key principles thereof, acting transparently and being accountable for the consequences of decisions on country-level programmes and investment;
6. *Also urges* governments to integrate factors of population growth, family planning and demographic dynamics into policy measures for sustainable development, which should also promote resilience to disasters and to climate change;
7. *Calls on* parliaments to work, at national, regional and international level, for the inclusion of a reproductive health indicator as part of the post-2015 development goals in the areas of health, equity and women's empowerment, to promote a rights-based approach to reproductive health and to take appropriate measures, through legislation and budget allocations, to provide universal access to voluntary family planning services;
8. *Urges* governments to participate actively in the ongoing consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction in order to gain information, knowledge and technical support for the development of a national post-2015 disaster risk-resilient development agenda, as both the post-2015 development agenda and the post-2015 framework are indissociable from the promotion of sustainable and risk-resilient poverty reduction and development;
9. *Calls on* all parliaments to support government efforts to develop disaster-resilient development policies and strategies that give serious consideration to disaster risk assessment, including population factors, at the planning and programme stages, as development without disaster resilience is not sustainable;
10. *Reiterates* that reducing disaster risk and protecting people's lives are the legal responsibility of all elected representatives, and thus *encourages* all parliaments to develop a national legislators' forum for disaster risk reduction and risk-resilient development;

11. *Calls on* parliaments to scrutinize government policy and actions with regard to disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development, and to use all legal instruments to ensure that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures are integrated into national planning and budgeting processes;
12. *Urges* donor countries and international development agencies to take a responsible approach and play a leading role in integrating disaster risk reduction and reproductive health measures into development planning and programmes, to ensure that aid-supported development activities contribute to disaster risk-resilient development;
13. *Calls on* all parliaments to drive the process for political ownership and will at government level in order to achieve tangible results in sustainable development and to contain human-induced environmental changes that contribute to the occurrence or severity of natural disasters, especially as a result of climate change; in particular *calls for* the conclusion of an ambitious global successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol by 2015;
14. *Invites* all IPU Member Parliaments to take urgent action to follow up on the recommendations made in this resolution in their respective countries and regions.