



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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# Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

## Lusaka (Zambia)

19 – 23 March 2016

### Table of contents

	<u>Page(s)</u>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	4
<b>Opening of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly</b>	
· Speech by Mr. P. Matibini, President of the National Assembly of Zambia .....	5
· Speech by Mr. S. Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union .....	5
· Speech by H.E. Mr. E. Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia .....	6
<b>Organization of the work of the Assembly</b>	
· Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 134 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and opening of the General Debate .....	8
· Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda .....	19
· Final agenda .....	21
<b>General Debate on the theme: <i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i></b>	
· Opening statements from Mr. P. Matibini, President of the National Assembly of Zambia, Ms. M. Mensah-Williams, President of the National Council of Namibia and President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Mr. V. Gapsys (Lithuania), Member of Parliament and member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU and Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights .....	8
· Resumption of the General Debate .....	12
· Interventions by special guests:	
- Mr. A. Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth .....	9
- Ms. Y. Chaka Chaka, Artist and UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership .....	10
- Mr. V. Nayak, Digital Constituency Manager, Obama 2012 Re-election Campaign.....	31
- Ms. C. Phiri, Zambian boxer .....	31
- Mr. H. Kalaba, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Zambia .....	44
<b>Plenary debate on the emergency item</b> entitled <i>Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</i> .....	22

	<u>Page(s)</u>
<b>Adoption of the resolution on the emergency item</b> .....	44
<b>Standing Committee on Peace and International Security</b>	
· Adoption of the agenda .....	56
· Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133 <sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015) .....	56
· Elections .....	65
· <i>Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights</i>	
(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs .....	56
(b) Debate .....	56
(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary .....	63
(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 134 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	65
· Preparations for future Assemblies	
(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee .....	64
(b) Proposals for the choice of two co-Rapporteurs .....	65
(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda .....	65
<b>Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade</b>	
· Adoption of the agenda .....	66
· Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133 <sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015) .....	66
· Elections .....	71
· <i>Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity</i>	
(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum prepared by the co-Rapporteurs .....	66
(b) Debate .....	67
(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary .....	70
(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 134 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	70
· Preparations for future Assemblies .....	71
(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee .....	71
(b) Proposals for the choice of two co-Rapporteurs .....	71
(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda .....	71
<b>Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights</b>	
· Adoption of the agenda .....	72
· Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133 <sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015) .....	72
· Elections .....	86
· Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee: <i>The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective</i> .....	72
· Debate on <i>Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability</i> .....	81
<b>Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs</b>	
· Adoption of the agenda .....	87
· Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133 <sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015) .....	87
· Elections .....	87
· Interactive debate on the appointment process for the Secretary-General of the United Nations .....	87
· Briefing: Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals .....	92

	<u>Page(s)</u>
<b>Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU</b>	
· Adoption of the agenda .....	97
· Election of members to the Board of the Forum .....	97
· Contribution to the work of the 134 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	97
· Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2015-2016) .....	101
· Preparations for the 135 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	102
<b>Adoption of resolutions, final documents and reports</b>	
· General Debate .....	105
· Standing Committee on Peace and International Security .....	103
· Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade .....	103
· Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights .....	103
· Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs .....	103
· Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 136 <sup>th</sup> Assembly .....	104
<b>Closure of the Assembly</b> .....	106
<b>Annexes</b>	
I. Outcome document from the General Debate on the theme <i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i> (Item 3) .....	108
II. <i>Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights</i> (Item 4) Text of the resolution .....	111
III. <i>Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity</i> (Item 5) Text of the resolution .....	115
IV-A – IV-D Reports of the Standing Committees .....	121,123
V-A. – V-B. Results of roll-call vote on proposals for the inclusion of an emergency item on the Assembly agenda .....	127,128
VI. <i>Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</i> (Item 8) Text of the resolution .....	129
VII. Presidential Statement .....	131
VIII. List of participants .....	132

## Introduction

The 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly took place from 19 to 23 March 2016, at the *Mulungushi International Conference Centre* in Lusaka, Zambia.

Delegations from 126 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The following six Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino), the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Observers comprised representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO); (ii) the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI); (iii) the African Union, the League of Arab States; (iv) the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), the African Parliamentary Union (APU), the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Pan African Parliament, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TurkPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum; (v) the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria; (vi) Socialist International; (vii) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

Of the 1,227 delegates who attended the Assembly, 634 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 36 Presiding Officers, 38 Deputy Presiding Officers and 190 women (29.9%).

# Opening of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly

## SITTING OF SATURDAY, 19 MARCH 2016

*Following a welcoming performance of traditional dance, the inaugural ceremony opened at 7.45 p.m. in the presence of His Excellency Mr. Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of Zambia.*

Mr. P. MATIBINI, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia, said that strong parliaments were essential to democratic development. He welcomed the work of the IPU to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of legislatures throughout the world. The theme of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly provided an opportunity to harness the resolve and energy of young people, in order to help them fulfil their full potential and participate in social, economic and political life. Young people had immense capabilities. However, supportive policies were required to engage the young and ensure they were not drawn into destructive pursuits, such as crime, drug abuse and political militancy.

Youth unemployment posed a major global challenge and increased the risk of young people turning to dangerous or criminal activities. Measures were needed to create jobs and combat poverty, including strategies that specifically targeted young people. Action had already been taken by including an employment target in the Sustainable Development Goals that specifically covered the needs of young people.

Given the important role that young people played in their countries' democratic development, it was essential to support and encourage the leaders of tomorrow, who could rejuvenate democratic institutions. It was vital to channel their energies into activities that would lead to tangible benefits and contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Significant barriers remained to young people's direct participation in democratic processes, and they were chronically underrepresented in parliament. Only 1.9 per cent of the world's parliamentarians were under 30 years of age, even though people aged between 20 and 44 accounted for nearly 60 per cent of voters, and the average age of the global population was just over 29. There was an urgent need for parliaments to reflect those demographic realities. For example, political parties could increase the number of young candidates standing for election. It was also worth noting that young women faced double discrimination, owing to their age and their gender. In Zambia, the President had called for women to be better represented at the forthcoming general elections, and had vowed to choose a female running mate.

The IPU had sought to tackle the issue of youth engagement in politics through a resolution adopted in 2010 entitled *Youth participation in the democratic process*. The resolution had led to the establishment of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. However, further action was necessary. The 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly provided an opportunity to identify further scope for action and share ideas and best practices. That would give the democratic system a new lease of life and ensure that young people's opinions were taken into account.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, warmly thanked the host parliament and organizing committee for their hard work. He said that Zambia embodied diversity: it was a rainbow nation of many tribes, languages, ethnic groups, religions and cultures. He also drew attention to the life and work of the late Zambian President Michael Chilufya Sata who, in addition to serving his country, had been a member of the IPU Executive Committee.

The theme of youth participation had been chosen because the sense of frustration felt by unemployed and disillusioned young people lay at the heart of many current global problems. The United Nations Secretary-General had recognized the importance of youth issues when he had appointed an Envoy on Youth, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi (Jordan), who would be attending the Assembly.

The IPU was based on inclusiveness, and the premise that all sectors of society, including young people, had to be involved in the decision-making process. Inclusive parliaments must reflect society, practice what they preached and set an example.

Young people were tired of politics and had lost confidence in public institutions. They did not go to the polls as they believed their votes would make no difference. It was up to parliaments to regain their trust, inspire them to enter politics and convince them that every voice counted. The disillusionment that young people were experiencing also stemmed from socio-economic circumstances. Unemployment led young people to lose hope, turn to crime or fall prey to terrorist networks.

It was vital to modernize democracy and to breathe new life into parliamentary systems. The IPU was working towards that objective through its standard-setting and advocacy work. For example, it was currently preparing its second Global Parliamentary Report in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme.

The theme of the previous Assembly, migration, was closely linked to youth participation. A large proportion of refugees were young people and children. To enable them to find the better life they sought, it was essential to give young people hope, and to review current economic and migration policies. Indeed, a paradigm shift was needed in the way that the political system operated.

At the third IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, it had been heartening to see young people exchanging ideas and demonstrating both solidarity and empathy towards each other. Parliaments needed to harness their energy and potential, and to bring them hope. The topics on the agenda of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly, which included terrorism and protecting the world's cultural heritage, were directly or indirectly related to youth issues. Parliaments should follow up on the resolutions adopted.

As part of the IPU's efforts to achieve universal membership, he was delighted to welcome back the parliaments of Egypt and Comoros into the IPU family, which now consisted of 169 national parliaments. He welcomed the news that Guyana would soon become a full Member of the IPU. Two new Observers and one Associate Member would also join the Organization at the present Assembly. All Members played a key role as IPU ambassadors throughout the world.

During the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly, the first draft of the revised IPU strategy would be circulated. Once input had been received from all stakeholders, it was hoped that the document would be adopted at the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Geneva. The strategy was an important text, which would define how the IPU was to operate in the coming years.

The IPU had actively contributed to defining the current Sustainable Development Goals. In order to achieve them, parliamentarians must ensure that their institutions were fit for purpose. The IPU planned to organize workshops, seminars and capacity-building programmes, including a self-assessment toolkit for parliaments.

The IPU also strove to be an innovative and green organization. It had recently launched a PaperSmart Initiative and held a panel discussion on ensuring a lighter carbon footprint for parliaments. He urged parliamentarians to support those initiatives.

He noted that 21 March was the International Day of Nowruz, and paid tribute to that ancient tradition.

Mr. E. CHAGWA LUNGU, President of the Republic of Zambia, welcomed delegates to Zambia and said that his country was honoured to host the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. It was the first time that Zambia had hosted the Assembly, the very same year that the Government was set to adopt a newly amended Constitution. That text was part of Zambia's journey to achieve a people-driven governance system, which responded to Zambians' democratic aspirations and reflected a commitment to the democratic process. That commitment extended beyond the country's borders, as Zambia had provided and continued to provide regional and international assistance. It had contributed to peace talks in Angola, to negotiating a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to peacekeeping efforts under the aegis of the United Nations in countries such as Mozambique, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone.

Zambia had made the transition from a one-party State to a multi-party political system. It was committed to democracy, peace and good governance. Those principles were reflected in its interaction with like-minded States and international organizations such as the IPU. Zambia's journey to hosting the IPU Assembly had begun in 2012, when the late President of Zambia, Michael Chilufya Sata had expressed his country's interest in hosting the event. The former president had himself played an active role in the IPU during his time as a member of parliament.

Strong parliaments contributed to strong democracies. They were able to give a voice to the hopes and aspirations of all citizens, including the young. It was gratifying that the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly had chosen to focus on the issue of youth. Young people represented the future, and they would be significantly affected by decisions made today.

Zambia had celebrated Youth Day on 12 March and had focused on the role of young people as champions of dialogue and economic emancipation. The Zambian Government was passionate about youth issues, particularly as young people accounted for the majority of the population. It had implemented a range of youth initiatives, policies and plans. Some had been part of the African Youth Decade and had covered areas such as employment, education, health and sport. The aim was to foster a skilled, enlightened and economically empowered young population, imbued with a

sense of patriotism and a desire for democracy. Other measures to promote youth participation had included initiatives such as the youth empowerment fund, an advisory and coordinating body called the national youth development council, and civic education in schools. The aim was to engage young people in the political process, including through encouraging them to think about parliamentary careers and leadership positions. However, suitable guidance should also be provided to enable young people to handle the responsibilities of leadership and power. Such an approach would help to convince them that, as Dr. Kenneth Kaunda had once said, "ambition never comes to an end."

The 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly provided an excellent opportunity to turn words into deeds. He recalled Kofi Annan's call for young people to be at the forefront of global change. Young people should be empowered and involved in decision-making processes. He wished the IPU every success in its deliberations, and declared the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly open.

*The President was invited to sign a canvas specially designed to mark the occasion. The inaugural ceremony closed at 8.45 p.m.*

## Sitting of Sunday 20 March

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.15 a.m., with Mr. Saber Chowdhury (Bangladesh), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in the Chair*

### Item 1 of the agenda

#### **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The PRESIDENT declared the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly open.

*As recommended by the Governing Council of the IPU, Mr. Patrick Matibini, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia was elected by acclamation as President of the Assembly*

*Mr. P. Matibini (Zambia) took the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT welcomed participants and said that the forthcoming general debate entitled *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth* would give parliamentarians the opportunity to discuss the participation and representation of young people in decision-making and the need to bring on board their views and aspirations through constructive and meaningful dialogue in which the value of other opinions was recognized in working towards common goals. As lawmakers, parliamentarians were responsible for debating and adopting legal frameworks designed to establish youth-led global structures that would support youth participation in politics and empower young parliamentarians. Members of Parliament must consequently ensure that meaningful democracy resulted in meaningful youth participation by giving young people a voice. Furthermore, as custodians of parliamentary accountability, parliamentarians helped to oversee the implementation of international commitments, demanded answers when outcomes were not reached and called for government action on all matters, including youth participation. The debate would in part be a demonstration of democracy in action at the global level: by exchanging their experiences, representatives would paint a collective picture of how people participated in democracy across the world. He wished Members a fruitful and rewarding discussion.

### Item 3 of the agenda

(A/134/3/Inf.1)

#### **General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth***

The PRESIDENT said that he looked forward to the participation of several prominent guests in the debate. The stage would first be set by speakers who had been invited to share their perspectives on the theme *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*.

Mrs. M. MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia), *President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians*, considered the theme from a gender perspective. She said that parliamentarians were responsible for ensuring that democracy remained alive through constant renewal, reinvention and rejuvenation. Democracy and youth went hand in hand and were mutually reinforcing. Democracy must build on young people's hopes while also working for wider inclusiveness and representation. Women were still a minority in most parliaments, and young women constituted an even smaller proportion of parliamentarians. In a lively debate focused on the challenges facing young women in politics and the creation of favourable conditions for their participation, the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians had heard young women recount that their political engagement came at the cost of their private lives and was generally discouraged by their culture. Challenges that women encountered included gender stereotyping, discriminatory norms, gender inequalities and a lack of commitment among leaders and political parties to women's participation.

In order to address such challenges and ensure that women, and young women in particular, saw politics as an option, the status quo must be changed. Processes and procedures related to political engagement must be open to all, the barriers to women's participation must be lifted, the

image of politics should be altered and the seeds of leadership should be planted in everyone from an early age. Rejuvenating democracy also meant turning parliaments into truly gender-sensitive institutions that abided by gender equality in the way they worked. The IPU's ambitious plan of action on gender-sensitive parliaments, launched in 2012, was a key part of promoting more modern and effective parliaments that would contribute to stronger democracies in challenging and uncertain times.

Mr. V. GAPSYS (Lithuania), *member of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, considered the debate from a youth perspective. He said that it was time to address the general mistrust in democratic institutions that prevailed among young people. That would involve systemic changes that took account of globalization and the digital communication technologies that were now democratizing the world. Parliaments should work to bridge the gap between the offline and online worlds. For young parliamentarians, rejuvenating democracy was about harnessing young people's ideas and innovative know-how so as to bring parliaments into the digital era. With their critical thinking, open minds and boundless energy, young people were a secret weapon, ready to fully participate in making democracy more open, accessible, accountable, transparent and effective. However, many obstacles persisted. For example, young people were one fifth of the world's population but were represented by fewer than 1,000 parliamentarians under 30 years of age. Shutting out young people from democracy destroyed their confidence in the institutions that governed them. That could lead to wider dissatisfaction, disinterest and even unrest. Young people were not apathetic but simply frustrated with a system in which they had little say or opportunity to contribute their many special qualities.

The IPU had been at the forefront of addressing challenges such as those, including through the establishment of its Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The Forum now recommended such measures as adopting quotas for increasing youth representation in parliament; aligning the minimum age of eligibility to run for office with the voting age; and establishing parliamentary structures that could mainstream youth perspectives. Young people wanted to engage and should not be let down.

Ms. A. KING (New Zealand), *Acting President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, discussed ways of modernizing and re-energizing the democratic process. She said that young people were chronically under-represented in parliaments, including her own. Older parliamentarians should therefore debate the issue of youth involvement in democracy and politics, break down barriers to promote inclusiveness and intergenerational commitment to democracy, and thereby pass on the torch to young people. A new front must be opened to fight for equality and safeguard a stronger democratic future in which young people were engaged in politics. Their engagement was critical to social stability and prosperity. Parliamentarians must motivate and inspire the world's rapidly growing young population in an ever-changing digital era where lives, jobs, education, expectations and opportunities were being transformed, yet where youth employment was increasing across the world. The growing pressures and range of social ills facing young people were creating in them a toxic mix of disillusionment, alienation and distrust regarding the inability of parliaments to urgently address their concerns.

The main challenge was how to turn around current feelings of disengagement among young people and make parliaments relevant to them. Despite the large amount of positive work towards achieving that aim, more was needed to give young people hope in democracy. She cited the example of New Zealand students who had discovered the value of working together and community engagement when they assisted the victims of a natural disaster. They had been unhindered by officialdom throughout their work and their success had motivated them to continue serving their community in other ways.

The PRESIDENT thanked the three speakers and introduced the first guest speaker in the general debate, Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Mr. Alhendawi had held that post since 2013 and was the youngest senior official in the history of the United Nations. His mandate included harmonizing UN efforts on youth development, advocating for the development needs and rights of young people and enhancing the UN response to those needs.

Mr. A. ALHENDAWI, *United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth*, welcomed the fact that the IPU was focusing on youth engagement. He said that his 15 years of experience working with and for young people had enabled him to identify the 10 mistakes most frequently made in discussions relating to young people. The first was the notion that young people were the future. In

actual fact, under-25s constituted almost half of the world population and, in the case of countries with low life expectancy, under-25s might not survive to see that future. The immediate concerns of the present generation must therefore be urgently addressed. The second mistake was to imagine that giving young people a voice was to do them a favour. In reality, it was young people doing the favour by making their voices heard. It was also important that their voices should be listened to as well as heard. The third mistake was for countries to consider a youthful population as a liability and a challenge rather than as an opportunity and their greatest asset. The fourth mistake was to assume that all extremists and trouble-makers were young people. He highlighted Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), concerning youth, peace and security, which recognized the role of young people in shaping peace and which established a unified agenda for engaging them in the fight against violent extremism. The fifth mistake was to view young people as careless and lazy: they could not be blamed for a lack of engagement if nothing was done to convince them that their participation would be meaningful.

The sixth mistake was to think that young people were too young to be successful in politics. That ignored the fact that young people were already changing the world with their successes in fields such as technology, art, science and business. The structures impeding young people's progress in politics must therefore be changed. The seventh mistake was to believe that young people were indifferent to politics. In fact, their reactions to political issues on social media indicated the opposite, and signalled that political processes needed to be modernized and brought into the digital age. The eighth mistake was to speak of assistance to young people as support. It was more accurate to see assisting young people as a smart investment. The ninth mistake was the failure to recognize the need to channel resources specifically into youth development. The tenth mistake was the failure to invest explicitly in young women and girls, who needed greater attention than young men and boys because of the additional obstacles that they faced.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Alhendawi and welcomed the second guest speaker, Ms. Yvonne Chaka Chaka, an internationally recognized and highly respected South African singer, humanitarian and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador.

Ms. Y. CHAKA CHAKA, *South African musician and Goodwill Ambassador for the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and the United Nations Children's Fund*, prefaced her remarks with a song. She said that democracy would be rejuvenated through youth participation as long as young people were not left standing idle, disenfranchised and ripe for being lured into taking other directions. All inhabitants of today's global space must communicate with and empower one another, as they were all politicians in their own right. Young people must be involved in affecting the changes needed to halt the unacceptable brain drain and to reduce disease-related deaths. Those in power must listen and be accessible to the ordinary voter who had elevated them to that position. They must aim to serve the people and gain their trust by preventing corruption and making the world a better place.

Young people's interest must be sparked in order to engage them in politics and ensure that they assumed their role as 21<sup>st</sup> century leaders with a vision for changing the world. Parliamentarians should go back home and practice what they preached by bringing about true change in people's lives. That change should be of benefit to the next generation, which would condemn all those who failed to join in working towards that aim. There must be mutual respect for other cultures and religions, which were all equal. Young people must be given a voice and women must no longer be treated as third-class citizens. Parliamentarians would work to bring about change throughout the world and ensure that no child went to bed hungry. Humans were born with nothing and died with nothing: they would only be remembered for what they did. She concluded with a song.

Ms. V. MACAMO DLOVO (Mozambique) said that capacity-building, notably in the area of information, communication and digital technologies, was important for the promotion of youth participation in society and the economic emancipation of young people that was essential for national well-being. Youth engagement in policymaking and the establishment of youth associations would also promote the inclusion of young people in building new democratic societies. In her country, a youth parliamentary caucus was actively addressing the concerns and aspirations of young people, a considerable number of whom occupied leadership positions in key decision-making bodies. The State worked in support of youth initiatives in order to consolidate national unity and foster development. It had adopted a strategy for implementing a national youth policy that aimed to enhance the professional, physical and intellectual capacities of young people. Various bodies had also been created to stimulate and monitor the progress of work related to youth integration.

Countries must ensure that young people enjoyed their fundamental freedoms, including by providing them with access to education, health care, adequate housing and employment, and by prioritizing their recruitment into a first job. In addition to a sound upbringing that discouraged deviant behaviour, young people must receive a political education that shaped them as patriots, fierce defenders of national ideals and supporters of the values of solidarity, charity, generosity and humanism, all of which were vital to building fairer and happier societies. Youth participation was a prerequisite for the rejuvenation of democratic institutions. Governments and parliaments should boldly and systematically pursue the objective of furthering youth participation.

Mr. D. ZHANG (China) said that he advocated a new approach to common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. That approach would cement peace and development, which were the foundations of democracy. Friendly consultation was an important element of democracy and efforts should be made to build international relations on the basis of win-win cooperation and a more equitable global governance system. He viewed inclusiveness as the essence of democracy. The paths towards democracy varied in accordance with national considerations. In seeking common ground, it was therefore vital to put aside differences and be open to learning from contrasting forms of democracy. A thriving population of young people made for a thriving world and their unique needs must consequently be catered for. That could be achieved through providing education, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Wider communication channels should also be provided through which young people could air their views and promote both the realization of their dreams and their contribution to society.

Robust international support was crucial to self-development in Africa. Africa was a continent of great promise and a force for both global peace and stability, and for greater democracy in international relations. China had built a comprehensive, strategic and cooperative partnership with Africa, the basis of which included mutual trust, mutual assistance in security and coordination in international affairs. He described the distinct features of social democracy in China, which applied the experiences of other political cultures to the Chinese context. He outlined the country's economic successes and future development plans.

Mr. R. SENDIC (Uruguay) said that his country had succeeded in its efforts to improve socioeconomic indicators and hence the quality of life for its people. However, the world continued to face a series of major challenges and it should set store by its young people by addressing those challenges. Higher life expectancy had meant that older people now predominated over the young in decision-making. However, that situation had only arisen in the last two centuries. Given the steady deterioration of circumstances since that shift, he suggested that it was time to hand back decision-making powers to young people. Youth apathy and indifference to political engagement must be addressed by working to increase transparency, eliminate corruption and harness the new forms of communication favoured by young people. Political and parliamentary processes must be made more accessible to, and inclusive of, young people in order to pave their way to leadership and ensure that their demands were not only heard but also heeded.

Ms. A.A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), speaking in her capacity as a young woman parliamentarian, said that her participation in the current Assembly was an example of progress achieved in women's empowerment. It should serve as an example of how the doors of politics could be opened, particularly to young women. Parliaments must step up their coordination of joint efforts to address the panoply of global challenges threatening stability, development and the aspirations of peoples around the world. Parliamentary dialogue should also be pursued so as to overcome differences and direct resources towards building a better future, in which young people had an indispensable role to play. Her country had run projects to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees and to combat terrorist ideologies, which should be condemned by all parliaments. She hoped that regional and other conflicts would be resolved through dialogue.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Sitting of Sunday 20 March (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m. with Mr. P. Matibini (Zambia) in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Ms. O. GHARTI (Nepal) said that the topic of the debate reflected the principle of democracy for the people, by the people. Young people were a productive and innovative section of the population, and played an essential role in society and democratic institutions. A disaffected or alienated generation posed serious problems for society as a whole. It was time to recognize that there was a crisis in the younger generation and create more opportunities for young people to play a role in decision-making processes.

In Nepal, the adoption of a new constitution had brought the country closer to the ideal of an inclusive and equal society, where the fundamental rights of citizens were protected and where young people could play a leading role in society and politics. Legislation had recently been adopted to establish a youth council to safeguard and promote young people's interests. Other strategies included creating more national and international opportunities, investing in the country's youth and raising awareness of their contribution to society.

Ms. S.S. CHAUDHURY (Bangladesh) said that growing feelings of mistrust and apathy had undermined civic participation. It was time to rejuvenate democracy: in the words of Aung San Suu Kyi, "freedom and democracy are dreams you never give up". Globalization was creating a new world order, and it was important to meet the challenges that lay ahead, while also making sure that no one was left behind. Youth participation was key to democratic governance, as young people constituted one fifth of the global population. Governments needed to engage young people, allow their voices to form part of the fabric of democracy, and provide them with the opportunity to play a role in shaping the policies that concerned them.

It was time to embrace young people's potential as agents of change, to foster dialogue, and to be responsive to the needs of the younger generation. Parliaments had to speak to young people, not merely about them. It was necessary to work together to promote inclusive democracies, embracing diversity and equality.

Ms. B. MBETE (South Africa) observed that a meaningful democracy required the full and active participation of young people. Young South African people had played a key part in the country's journey to independence and democracy. As early as 1912, youth leaders had contributed to founding the African National Congress and led demonstrations against the dispossession of colonized subjects.

South Africa was a country of the young, and the Government was working to ensure that they would inherit a more equal and prosperous society. Measures were being taken so that young people were the agents of their own advancement, rather than passive recipients of government services. The Government's strategies had included affirmative action policies, and aimed to ensure that all citizens could enjoy the fruits of freedom and opportunity. The Ministry of Women and the National Youth Development Agency were responsible for ensuring that cross-cutting youth issues were mainstreamed across different parts of government activity. In 2015, the Government had launched a National Youth Policy, whose aims included removing barriers to youth participation and making efforts to achieve sustainable development. South Africa had ratified various international instruments including the African Youth Charter, and had provided a framework for developing domestic policies on women and young people.

Far from being apathetic, young people were highly knowledgeable, with an active interest in a variety of socioeconomic and political processes. Young people played an active role in shaping policy and challenging parliamentary norms. In line with the IPU resolution *Youth participation in the democratic process*, successive Speakers had included young members of parliament in national parliamentary delegations to international forums such as the IPU, the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association, and other regional bodies. A Youth and Women's Parliament was held annually. It gave young people an opportunity to define the public policy agenda on youth issues, and inform policymakers and government officials of their opinions.

She stressed that young people should be at the forefront of global change and development.

Mr. A. TARAWNEH (Jordan) said that citizens' rights to safety and stability must be defended in order to protect them from terrorism and ensure sustainable development. In Jordan, a comprehensive programme of institutional reform had been implemented. The only delay to progress was the complex security challenges facing the country: wars in Syria and Iraq, and deadlock after the failure to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. The King had repeatedly warned that the fires of terrorism and extremism in the region were stoked by international indifference to the rights of the Palestinian people.

Those security challenges had led to a high level of military spending. The national budget was already stretched by the increasing cost of living and basic services, and the lack of investment opportunities due to regional instability. The 1.5 million Syrian refugees and migrants living in Jordan was an additional strain.

The Government was working to combat terrorism. The seeds of hatred planted today would be harvested tomorrow through exclusion, marginalization and rejection, all of which deprived young people of their rights. In addition to domestic and regional security measures, the Government had launched a raft of comprehensive reforms. It was in the process of drawing up a youth strategy so that young people's voices could be heard and their aspirations taken on board. Specific measures to support the nation's youth included introducing open list proportional representation, and legislative reforms relating to political parties, municipalities and a decentralized form of government.

The Government was committed to the path of reform, while acknowledging that its interests were closely tied to those of its neighbours, and stability in the region as a whole.

*Mr. R. Sendic (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. K. JAYASURIYA (Sri Lanka) said that young people were a large part of the global population but were underrepresented in parliament. They had lost confidence in democratic institutions and felt alienated from political processes. They were often actively involved in informal political activities, including online activism, boycotts and demonstrations; but their dwindling interest in formal politics posed a threat to democracy. No democratic political system could claim legitimacy if it excluded and failed to engage young people. As Kofi Annan had indicated, societies that cut themselves off from their young people were condemned to bleed to death.

In Sri Lanka, young people had played a major role in political movements since the 1970s. They had fought for social justice and equality, and raised awareness of socioeconomic discrimination. The Government was engaging young people in political life, including through legally binding youth quotas, and provisions to ensure youth participation in civic life and development activities. A statement from the Young Political Leaders' Forum in 2014 had set out a road map for enhancing young people's political engagement.

Governments and societies needed to give young people the opportunity to participate in social and political life. Problems affecting young people must be addressed and obstacles to youth participation overcome, so that young people felt that their voice made a difference. Governments must also make sure that legal and administrative frameworks promoted youth participation. The work of the IPU was instrumental in that regard, especially the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. The Forum provided leadership opportunities to young people and fostered their engagement in political life.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan) said that governments must involve young people in social and democratic life, and provide an enabling environment. Young people's participation in democratic processes was a prerequisite for achieving global development goals.

In Bhutan, where over half the population was under the age of 25, the Government was aware of the importance of engaging young people in social and political life, in line with the Bhutanese concept of gross national happiness. Bhutan had invested in education, and had implemented a range of initiatives to equip young people with the skills required to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. It had established a children's parliament, outreach programmes and democracy clubs in schools, which aimed to promote civic engagement.

Over the years, the IPU had provided a platform for the exchange of ideas and experiences between young law-makers through its Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Parliaments had to play a pivotal role in fostering youth participation. It was hoped that the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly would contribute to mobilizing young people towards playing a key role in rejuvenating democracy and shaping the future.

Mr. S. DIALLO (Burkina Faso) said that during the period of social and political crisis in Burkina Faso, young people had been at the forefront of efforts to secure greater freedom and democracy, to put aside armed violence, and to achieve real change.

In order to transform society, citizens must be more than passive beneficiaries of policies. The Government had implemented a new national policy: it focused on young people and on fostering a creative and dynamic young generation. That political vision required realistic policies to improve young people's circumstances and to promote their engagement in democratic processes.

Parliaments were responsible for ensuring that young people were represented and involved in decision-making processes. If young people were given the opportunity to speak, new spaces of freedom and democracy could be created for the future.

Mr. E. MOKOLO WA MPOMBO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that, as young people made up the majority of his country's population, it was important to solve their problems. A framework must be created to foster youth participation and involve young people in political life from an early age.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, young people could vote and be elected to local government from the age of 18. They could be elected to the National Assembly from 25, and stand for a Senate seat or run for the presidency from 30. The Government had launched a review of electoral regulations and measures to encourage young people to participate in the decision-making process. In his country, more than a quarter of members of parliament were under the age of 25, and many were active in the IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians.

The Government and UNDP had launched education and awareness-raising campaigns to foster participation in political life. Measures had been taken to establish a framework to promote dialogue between young people and decision-makers, and to prevent violence during electoral periods.

Mr. V. MATEU ZAMORA (Andorra) said that young people appeared to have lost faith in democracy. Parliaments needed to take practical steps to boost citizens' confidence in democratic processes by, for example, challenging stereotypes and preconceptions through social media. Andorra was a young, dynamic country. Its small size enabled the Government to adapt and respond to citizens' needs. The country's demographic profile was reflected in its institutions. For example, 50 per cent of members of parliament and half the government ministers were under the age of 45.

It was essential for parliaments to open up to citizens, including the youngest. In Andorra, guided tours of the parliament buildings were organized for school children, and nearly all the schools in the country had visited the seat of government at least once. The Government made use of various social media platforms to contact people. Two years previously, the international day of democracy had focused on young people. All political parties had a youth wing, and the country's youth parliament allowed young people to prepare Bills to submit before the national parliament. Although those Bills were not published in the official gazette, they provided a useful basis for parliamentary debate and were often taken up by the competent authorities.

In order to prevent young people rejecting politics and democratic institutions, it was essential for parliamentary systems to represent all people and interests.

Mrs. S. MAHAJAN (India) stressed that young people were a source of energy, innovation and optimism. It was essential to channel that energy and engage them in nation-building efforts. That would prevent any energy being misdirected towards terrorism or other destructive activities. To make the democratic process meaningful and sustainable, it was vital to allow young people to participate in decision-making processes.

The four main areas of life that concerned young people were family, career, lifestyle and friendships. It was important to create a fifth, in order to shift the focus from the self to society and revive young people's interest in mainstream social processes. Such a paradigm shift would contribute to everyone's welfare.

There were few opportunities for young people in the world of electoral politics. It was a highly competitive and costly vocation, and few formal platforms existed where young people could express their ideas. It would be helpful to create space for them in public life, and find a means of raising their awareness of politics.

The Indian Government had implemented a range of measures to enhance youth participation. The voting age had been reduced to 18 and a government department for youth issues had been created to provide support and channel young people's energies into creative endeavours. There was a national programme for young leaders, and a range of initiatives, such as Skill India and Start Up India, had been launched to boost youth entrepreneurship and foster job creation. The national youth policy, implemented in 2014, had focused on the participation of young people in politics and governance. It had sought to enhance youth leadership from the grass-roots to the national level.

Young people needed opportunities to be seen and heard. The best way of predicting the future was to create it.

Mr. Y. ABATE RETA (Ethiopia) said that efforts to rejuvenate democracy provided an opportunity to harness the energy and ideas of the young by encouraging their full participation and engagement in social, political and economic life. Their contributions and innovative thinking could benefit the whole of society at the institutional and grass-roots levels.

An enabling environment was a prerequisite for translating young people's potential and energy into action. To that end, the Government had implemented a range of measures to equip young people with the professional competences, skills and values required to actively participate in efforts to promote democracy and accelerate development. Nevertheless, certain institutional shortcomings and policy gaps had yet to be addressed.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Youth and Sports was responsible for the national youth policy. It was designed to ensure the broad participation of young people in the economic, social and cultural life of the country, and to support democratization and good governance. The policy addressed a wide range of issues, from HIV/AIDS to environmental protection and social services. Moreover, the Government had, with input from youth organizations, created a youth development package to implement that policy. The aim was to foster youth entrepreneurship and enhance young people's leadership capacities. Steps had been taken to ensure that young people participated in all stages of the programme's design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; they had had technical, material and financial assistance and training.

Ethiopia was one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It had made truly remarkable progress in reducing poverty, increasing access to education, reducing child and maternal mortality, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases. The Government had developed a climate-resilient green economy strategy, and aimed to ensure that Ethiopia attained the status of a middle-income, carbon-neutral economy by 2025.

Thanks to the Government's efforts, the country currently had a favourable political, economic and social environment. Nevertheless, much still remained to be done to ensure the full participation of young people at national, regional and international level. The Government was committed to improving the capacity of young people and enhancing their ability to contribute to the country's development.

Ms. G.K.T. KOKORWE (Botswana) said that, in the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt, while we cannot always build a future for our youth, we can build our youth for the future. A genuinely inclusive society should create the necessary conditions for full youth participation in social, economic and political development.

The Government was committed to empowering young people. The Ministry of Youth, Sport and Culture had an explicit mandate to address youth issues. The age of majority had been reduced from 21 to 18. A national referendum held in 1997 had lowered the voting age to 18 and had led to increased voter turnout at general elections.

The Botswana National Youth Council was the central coordinating body for youth-focused non-governmental organizations. It aimed to articulate the interests of young people so as to enable them to contribute to policy- and decision-making processes. The Council also provided leadership training to young people through the Botswana Youth Centre.

Young people currently made up more than 60 per cent of the population. Nevertheless, in spite of policies designed to empower youth, young people remained marginalized within the mainstream political, social and economic processes of society.

Efforts to tap into the potential of young people and to promote their political participation needed to move beyond simply giving young people a voice within the framework of traditional politics. They also needed to take into account new forms of participation, and tackle issues associated with contemporary youth culture. Young people had a critical role to play in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and other strategies. Future success would depend on their engagement at national, regional and global level.

Mr. A. ALJARWAN (Arab Parliament) stressed that the Arab Parliament had also reaffirmed the importance of youth participation by adopting a document on the issue. It was important to tap into the potential of young people. Examples of successful efforts in that regard included the work of youth leaders in many Arab countries, such as the United Arab Emirates.

The Arab Parliament condemned terrorism and stressed that Islam was a religion based on tolerance. Efforts to combat the root causes of terrorism needed to focus on investment in education and economic opportunities. The Arab Parliament also condemned the latest actions of the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people. It called for action to uphold Palestinians' rights and to establish an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. Such measures would diffuse the crisis and increase stability in the region.

The Arab Parliament welcomed the recent Russian withdrawal from the Syrian Arab Republic. It urged the international community to put pressure on key players so as to cease hostilities, and to find a solution to the conflict in that country, in line with agreements reached at the recent conference in Geneva. The influx of refugees must end, and Syrians must be given the opportunity to return home and rebuild their country. The Arab Parliament stressed that the Libyan army must be adequately armed in order to deal with the chaos in that country. It urged relief and aid agencies to support refugees and assist the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in its work. States experiencing conflict must strive to achieve peace and national reconciliation, with international aid and support. The Arab Parliament urged the international community to uphold international legal instruments, stressing the need to prevent interference in the internal affairs of States, including certain Arab countries, and encouraged good neighbourhood policies. The Arab Parliament also called for an end to the Iranian occupation of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs.

The Arab Parliament expressed its support for the work of the IPU, and welcomed joint efforts to tackle current problems and create a more stable and prosperous world.

Mr. H. BENCHAMACH (Morocco) welcomed the clear consensus on the need to tap into the energy and capacity of young people, and said that he had appreciated the best practices and positive outcomes that members had shared.

In Morocco, young people aged between 15 and 34 accounted for over 30 per cent of the population. Since the 1990s, the Government had implemented initiatives, including workshops and seminars, to foster youth participation. The adoption of a revised constitution had signalled the country's move from a transitional to a permanent, deeply rooted democracy, thanks to the political will of the King, and the patient efforts of the people.

The Government's efforts to address youth issues had included reducing the voting age to 18, and implementing positive discrimination measures, including quotas and safe lists. Young people played a leading role in parliament, the Government had set up a ministry responsible for youth and sports, and constitutional amendments had enhanced young people's involvement in social, economic and political life. The creation of a national youth council and a gender equality programme had yielded positive results. The Government had adopted a range of legislation focusing on the aspirations of the young, as well as a proposal for an international day for social justice.

It was time to turn words into deeds, and to develop tailored policies. Efforts should be made to examine the reasons behind extremist and terrorist movements, and why young people, not all of whom were from poor or marginalized backgrounds, joined terrorist organizations.

Given that society also marginalized women, children and the elderly, and that gender parity measures led to significant wealth creation, it was not difficult to imagine the positive results of adopting policies that focused both on youth issues and gender equality.

He encouraged the IPU to support the Moroccan proposal to make social justice the focus of the IPU's work over the forthcoming decade. That approach would also help to foster youth participation.

Mrs. A.D. DAGBAN-ZONVIDE (Togo) said that, in spite of young people's key role in efforts to achieve peace and stability, they were all too often manipulated by politicians, or embroiled in conflicts which had little to do with democratic ideals.

Her country was committed to modernizing democracy, and had taken measures to enhance the participation of women and young people in political processes. In line with the recommendations of the Reconciliation, Truth and Justice Commission, a panel of experts had sought to identify customs and practices which could help to consolidate democracy. Democracy must be inclusive, participatory and rooted in local practices. Through the gradual implementation of gender parity legislation, the number of women in the national assembly had increased. The

Government had set up a national youth council, which operated as a clearing house for various youth organizations, opened youth centres in major cities, and provided support to civil society organizations seeking to offer leadership skills training to young people. In 2015, the Government had also declared October as the national month for civic duty and responsibility, and organized educational and outreach programmes. Civic studies had also been added to the secondary school curriculum as a mandatory subject. There were plans to decentralize the system of governance and ensure that young people were involved in politics at grass-roots level.

Togo was committed to working together with the IPU and the international community to enhance young people's participation in the democratic process.

Mr. B. SCOTT (Australia) noted that democratic, political and parliamentary processes must be continually reinvented in order to remain relevant and effective. Although Australia was a relatively young State, it was one of the older democracies in the world. It had an established, competent and independent electoral administration body, which maintained the national electoral register and managed the election process.

Nevertheless, there were concerns about the next generation of Australian parliamentarians. The average age of members of parliament was just over 50, with only two members aged under 30. Although overall levels of democratic participation were high, younger Australians were less likely to register to vote. Their low level of participation resulted from: a poor understanding of the political and democratic system; feelings of alienation from power brokers such as politicians, business leaders and media commentators; the perceived irrelevance of politics to the realities of life; lifestyle barriers such as travel, study, or intermittent work; and the difficulty of following bureaucratic procedures, such as complex forms.

To encourage participation Australia had, for example, established educational centres to provide training and teaching materials that would raise awareness of the democratic process and encourage youth participation. The centres were operated by the Australian Electoral Commission and the Parliament. The Electoral Commission had also conducted various targeted campaigns and initiatives which had led to a slow but steady increase in enrolment rates.

Lastly, another important and practical way that members of parliament could make a difference was by visiting schools, community groups and other organizations to explain how the democratic process worked. In an age when so much information was filtered through the media, such an approach would set an example for the next generation.

Mrs. F. BENBADIS (Algeria) said that parliaments had a vital role to play in enabling young people express their opinions and aspirations. Under the auspices of the IPU, the parliaments of the world could work to protect young people's interests, and ensure that future generations had the necessary resources to continue to strive for freedom, peace and security. Given that parliaments were the best forum for democratic expression, they needed to create a platform that young people could use to express their concerns, and enable them to participate in the decision-making process.

The Algerian Government had taken measures to provide young people with opportunities to express their opinions and concerns. A permanent mechanism had been established to ensure their participation in the decision-making process and to foster dialogue. That enabled parliament to better respond to young people's concerns and expectations. Young people were also a key part of the country's development programme. Legislative reforms had sought to increase the representation of women and young people in parliament, and women – including a significant number of young women – currently accounted for just over 30 per cent of members of parliament. The minimum age for election to parliament had also been lowered from 40 to 35.

As part of a range of initiatives to improve the services and opportunities offered to young people, a new consultative body had been established. It was made up of civil society, government and public sector representatives and advised the President on youth issues.

Ms. M. ANDRÉ (France) said that democratic systems depended on the trust people placed in them. It was therefore essential to encourage young citizens to commit to democratic ideals. Parliaments should be alert to young people becoming disaffected, failing to vote, or showing signs of radicalization. Governments needed to promote youth participation through education and involve young people in the decision-making process. Given that ignorance led to despotism and tyranny, it was vital to ensure that education lay at the heart of measures to foster youth participation.

Young people, and young women in particular, needed a platform to express their views. They were underrepresented in parliament. Certain legal obstacles had been overcome, such as the voting age or minimum age to run for office; but young people were still failing to exercise their civil rights. In order to rejuvenate democracy, parliaments should truly represent the demographic profile of society, particularly with respect to gender.

It was important not to focus solely on young people or reject mature and experienced candidates. Instead, youth wings in political parties could be created, which could provide young people with experience and foster their active participation at local, municipal and national level. In that regard, the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life provided a useful tool, as did initiatives on the potential of e-parliaments and the use of new information and communication technologies. It was up to all parliamentarians to rejuvenate democracy and change their way of thinking in order to represent citizens more effectively.

Ms. N. SIMAMUNA (Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health) said that it was critical to invest in young people, in order to benefit from the demographic dividend, and promote the economic, social and environmental development of nations. Although young people had a significant impact on the political landscape, millions of adolescents were dying or falling ill from preventable diseases. Too few had access to information or counselling, or to integrated, youth-friendly health services, particularly sexual and reproductive health services. They faced a range of social, legal and policy obstacles that harmed their physical, mental and emotional health. For adolescents living with disabilities or in crisis situations, those obstacles were even greater.

In addition to investing in the health and wellbeing of young people through policies relating to youth health, it was also important to involve them in developing those policies. It was essential for parliaments to prioritize the health of women, children and adolescents, as key actors in developing policies and budgets, and holding governments to account.

She welcomed the IPU's efforts to improve health outcomes and called for its 2012 resolution, *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*, to be revised to take account of the revised Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health. More work was required to strengthen accountability for the implementation of that strategy. Lastly, she encouraged the IPU to pursue its efforts to promote the increased representation of young people in parliaments, and for national parliaments to work more systematically with young people and youth-led organizations.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary) said that democracy was not a goal in itself, but rather a means of achieving society's goals, based on moral principles and the common good. Youth participation levels varied from country to country. In some countries, young people wanted to play a role in building democratic institutions, while in others, they were disillusioned with democracy and had no confidence in its institutions. One problem was that in a democracy which focused on economic performance and individual status, unless a person's basic needs were met, they would be unlikely to take an interest in broader social problems or political issues. Their primary support networks included family, friends and, to a certain extent, the internet. It was therefore necessary to support families, and to ensure that young people were able to learn from each other, and from new technology. Technological innovations were both a blessing and a curse, and there was a need to maximize their benefits.

One of the main obstacles to youth participation was selfishness. Many people felt alone and abandoned, and few were willing to make sacrifices or take action to benefit their communities or society at large. Without a moral compass, democracy was a dead-end, leading to the disintegration of communities. Societies relied on altruism, and on the ability to combine personal and community interests. In order to teach those values and principles to young people, a national volunteer centre was being established in Hungary. If the aim was to raise young people's awareness of their environment and the societies in which they lived, it was necessary to ensure that their voices were heard. Otherwise, they would not trust parliaments, the democratic process or themselves.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that it was more vital than ever to develop sustainable democracies and strong parliaments so as to combat terrorism and protect cultural heritage. Young people were particularly vulnerable to political extremism and violence, and often disappointed in their experience of democracy. In 2012, the Latvian parliament had launched an outreach initiative targeting schools. It provided students with opportunities to understand the work of parliaments and how they could influence the system. Since the launch of the initiative, more than ten per cent of Latvian schools had participated in the programme, and many had incorporated it into their curricula.

The Government had also set up a youth parliament. It provided young people with the opportunity to submit ideas online and then campaign for votes using social media and other methods. The elected members of the youth parliament had the opportunity to debate their ideas and adopt declarations that would be submitted to members of the Latvian parliament as recommendations.

Under the rules of procedure of the Latvian parliament, petitions with more than 10,000 signatures could be submitted as legislative proposals. Anyone over the age of 16 could submit a petition, even though the minimum voting age was 18. Signatures could also be collected online, providing a modern, widely accessible link between the public and the work of the parliament. Inclusiveness was key. It was important to educate people on how democracies operated and what tools they had to influence their own futures.

Item 2 of the agenda  
(A/134/2-Inf.1 and A/134/2-P.1 to P.6)

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

The PRESIDENT said that members of the Steering Committee, following examination of the requests submitted for the inclusion of an emergency item on the agenda of the Assembly, had expressed doubts as to whether those requests, as required by Rule 11.2 (a) of the Rules of the Assembly, related to a major event of international concern on which it appeared necessary for the IPU to express its opinion. The requests did not relate to a major new issue that had arisen since the time of the previous Assembly but rather to long-standing issues requiring a sustained response over time and already forming part of the IPU's ongoing work. The Steering Committee had consequently recommended that the current Rules of the Assembly on the emergency item should eventually be reviewed in order to clarify the nature and purpose of that item. In the interim, however, it proposed that the Assembly should proceed to a vote on the requests tabled before it.

The SECRETARY GENERAL drew attention to document A/134/2-Inf.1, pointing out that the two requests initially received from France and Uruguay had since been merged into a single request as they dealt with similar subjects.

The PRESIDENT invited presentations of the requests by their respective authors. He said that the emergency item would then be selected on the basis of a roll-call vote.

Mr. H. BENCHAMACH (Morocco) said that his delegation's request for the inclusion of an emergency item was entitled *Completing the process for international recognition of a viable, independent and sovereign Palestinian State, with East Jerusalem as its capital: The role of parliaments*. It had been submitted on the grounds that it related to an urgent matter of global concern involving the violation of international law and crimes against the Palestinian people. However, his delegation now wished to defer that request until the next Assembly in order to lend its support to the Sudanese request.

The PRESIDENT confirmed the withdrawal of the Moroccan request. He said that the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly would have discretion as to whether or not it should be given further consideration at that time.

Ms. B. SULEIMAN (Sudan) presented her delegation's request for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled *Human trafficking: An act of terrorism, a grave violation of human rights and human dignity, and a threat to international peace and security*. She provided the details set out in the explanatory memorandum annexed to document A/134/2-P.3. She cited the definition of human trafficking and statistics indicating the global extent of the problem and the number of victims. She also noted the cross-border nature of the crime, the profit motives driving the criminal organizations involved and the threat that it posed to international peace and security.

Ms. S. KSANTINI (Tunisia) expressed opposition to the request. She said that human trafficking was not an emergency issue and that it was already the subject of various international instruments. She also expressed dismay and embarrassment, as an Arab and a Muslim, that the Moroccan delegation had deferred its request relating to the rights of the Palestinian people in order to support the Sudanese request.

Mr. J. MILLÁN (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his delegation wished to withdraw its request for inclusion of an emergency item entitled *Parliamentary powers in democracies and the importance of the oversight function* on the basis of the decision approved that morning by the Governing Council, for which he was grateful. As a result of that decision, the IPU would be monitoring the situation in his own Parliament, including through a mission to the country. However, he stressed the premise of his delegation's request, specifically the need to strengthen parliaments and their functioning in order to prevent such situations and promote democracy.

The PRESIDENT confirmed the withdrawal of the Venezuelan request.

Mr. R. MARTÍNEZ HUELMO (Uruguay) referred to his delegation's request for the inclusion of an emergency item entitled *The humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: The role of parliament and the responsibility of the international community*. He said that the subject matter of that request was deemed to overlap with that of the French request entitled *Giving an identity to the 230 million unregistered children in the world*. The two requests had therefore been merged and submitted jointly by the French and Uruguayan delegations under the title *Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*.

Ms. L. DUMONT (France) presented that joint request. She said that the 230 million children without a civil status were deprived of the long-established right to birth registration for such reasons as lack of parental awareness and economic or geographic obstacles. Serious consequences included lack of access to basic rights and to essential civil documentation; vulnerability to child trafficking, illegal child labour, forced marriage and recruitment into armed forces; and the adverse effect on public policymaking owing to the absence of such children from national statistics. Parliamentarians must now highlight the problem, to which there were simple and inexpensive technological solutions, and work to fulfil the commitment made to implement SDG 16.9 (*By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration*).

The PRESIDENT said that a roll-call vote would be taken in order to select one of the remaining two requests from either Sudan or the joint request from France and Uruguay.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in taking the roll-call vote.

*A roll-call vote was taken.*

*With 761 votes in favour, 180 against and 260 abstentions, the request submitted by the delegation of the Sudan won 627 of the 941 votes cast, thereby attaining the two-thirds majority required in order to be accepted.*

*With 938 votes in favour, 57 against and 206 abstentions, the joint request submitted by the delegations of France and Uruguay won 663 of the 995 votes cast, thereby attaining the two-thirds majority required in order to be accepted.*

*On the basis of the results of the vote, the joint request submitted by the delegations of France and Uruguay was added to the agenda of the Assembly as item 8.*

The SECRETARY GENERAL announced that two geopolitical groups had submitted their nominations for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing a proposed resolution on the chosen emergency item and encouraged the prompt submission of nominations by the remaining geopolitical groups.

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## Final agenda

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|--------|---|
| Item 1 | Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 134 <sup>th</sup> Assembly   |
| Item 2 | Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda   |
| Item 3 | General Debate on <i>Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth</i>  |
| Item 4 | Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights<br><i>(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)</i>   |
| Item 5 | Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity<br><i>(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)</i>                                |
| Item 6 | Reports of the Standing Committees  |
| Item 7 | Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 136 <sup>th</sup> Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs |
| Item 8 | Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century   |
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## Sitting of Monday 21 March

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.25 a.m., with Ms. N. Motsamai (Lesotho), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

Item 8 of the agenda  
(A/134/2-P.6)

**Plenary debate on the emergency item:  
*Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century***

Ms. L. DUMONT (France) thanked delegates for having voted for the emergency item jointly proposed by France and Uruguay. The challenge of giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status was enormous. To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16.9 (*By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration*) effective planning was needed so that the identified causes and consequences of the problem could be tackled. Parliaments must work on measures that would make parents aware of the need to register children at birth. It was also necessary to: ensure that no distinction was made on the basis of race or religion, and that birth certificates were free of charge and easy to obtain; establish civil registries in accessible locations across all countries; authorize mothers and people such as midwives and village chiefs to register births; and introduce innovative solutions such as the registration of births and receipt of birth certificates through secure Internet and mobile telephone connections. Other equally achievable measures included organizing regularization campaigns and dedicating a specific budget line to civil status matters. Parliaments must advocate for compliance with relevant international instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although existing measures had already achieved a visible impact on the statistical data, they would only yield fully satisfactory results if they were more widely implemented. She hoped that the debate would provide input for improving the text of the draft resolution.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) said that the right to identity was vital. She recalled a parliamentary workshop in Lima, Peru, in 2013 that had been jointly organized by the IPU and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The workshop had been about promoting universal birth registration in Latin America and the Caribbean, where a truly alarming number of children were unable to exercise their rights because they had no civil status. The parliamentarians attending the workshop had resolved to address the problem. Regional projects on that topic were now being funded by the Inter-American Development Bank. Mexico had introduced a constitutional reform providing for free birth registration. Budgetary resources must be allocated to the modernization of civil registration systems, particularly in remote areas. Resources must also be allocated for relevant personnel training so that all children were registered at birth and thus able to enjoy their full rights as citizens.

Mr. R. MARTÍNEZ HUELMO (Uruguay), speaking as a sponsor of the draft resolution, said that his delegation's initial proposal for an emergency item on the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century had concentrated on more general issues, although there had been some emphasis on the Middle East region. It had made sense to join forces with the French delegation to work on that crisis from a more focused perspective. Indeed, the matter of children without a civil status was so critical that the IPU should prioritize it, possibly by establishing a dedicated panel. Birth registration should be compulsory, as it was in Uruguay. Special efforts must be made to ensure that the civil rights enshrined in international instruments were afforded to victims of war and conflict, particularly the most vulnerable, including children. He hoped that the welcome support that the joint French-Uruguayan request had received would ultimately be translated into appropriate parliamentary action.

Mr. A. JASIM (United Arab Emirates) cited migration, forced migration and unknown parentage as among the reasons behind the tremendous global problem of children without a civil status. He referred to legislation introduced in his country to provide for the naturalization of such children, whose legal carers were responsible for their education and health care and for raising them to be effective members of society. Emirati law also prohibited discrimination against any

individual on ethnic, religious or other grounds. Similar legislation could be enacted elsewhere as a way of ensuring that children had an identity, enjoyed their human rights without discrimination and were fully integrated into society. States must abide by international law and adopt measures for guaranteeing rights that were indispensable to the human dignity of those living permanently or temporarily within their borders. States must also prohibit interference in their domestic affairs in the interests of caring for and protecting both permanent and temporary residents.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium) commended the joint French and Uruguayan initiative to address the urgent issue of children whose lack of legal identity meant that they were officially non-existent. The causes and consequences of the problem had already been well articulated. It was hoped that a variety of approaches to addressing that issue could be incorporated into the draft resolution. The 230 million children without a civil status should urgently be afforded their rights even before they were registered: although registration procedures could be speeded up with the help of technology, they still took a long time. In addition, prevention was an important element of the debate. The subject could perhaps be included as part of the wider work of the IPU so as to continue monitoring and assessing the situation. Monitoring was especially important in areas where children without a legal status were most prevalent, such as conflict zones. Concerted efforts must be made to protect the children concerned and eliminate their difficulties.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thanked all participants in the debate. She hoped that it would contribute towards promoting greater international efforts to resolve the plight of the many children suffering from their lack of civil status. In order to finalize the proposed resolution, a drafting committee was to be established in accordance with Rule 16.2 of the Rules of the Standing Committees. The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mexico and Uruguay had been nominated as participants. Other interested delegations should present their nominations without delay.

*The meeting was suspended at 10 a.m. and resumed at 10.30 a.m., with Ms. G.K.T. Kokorwe, Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. J.F. MUDENDA (Zimbabwe) resumed the debate and said that pragmatic action was needed to uplift young people and give them a good quality of life. This was especially important as, despite being so numerous, young people still had limited influence in national political institutions and economic life. Countries must avoid relegating young people to a position of obscurity and encourage them to define their own unique brand of development in society. For if young people failed to devise and drive the right programmes of action for themselves, they would fail in their mission to achieve self-actualization. Space must therefore be created for young people to participate fully in the national development agenda, including through their mission of self-discovery and personal development. Legislative, policy, financing, education and training frameworks that encouraged young people to contribute substantially to democratic governance and related institutions must be set up. More importantly, society must respond positively to young people's vibrant aspirations and listen attentively to their voice at all times.

In Zimbabwe, youth unemployment was high and young people were not fully engaged in formal political processes, whether as voters or candidates. However, all major political parties had vibrant youth wings where young people could be mentored for leadership roles and where young parliamentarians in office were particularly active. The Constitution provided a youth-friendly legal framework and young people's socioeconomic development and empowerment were driven by a national youth policy. The energy of youth must be harnessed for rejuvenating democracy. To give young people a voice would lift them out of the zone of comfortable inaction.

Mr. U.H. CHUNG (Republic of Korea) described the universal benefits of democracy for humankind, while also noting the threats that democracy faced in some parts of the world. The key to rejuvenating democracy, which was the best system for ensuring freedom and happiness, lay in enhancing the engagement of younger generations in the political process. Although young Koreans tended to be less politically active than older generations, they were now actively engaging in politics through social media. Politicians were reaching out to the young in casual

settings with more youth appeal. The spread of social media was set to strengthen such communication. It would promote a truly participatory democracy, contribute to transparency, accountability and responsiveness and act as a complement to representative democracy.

There were a number of initiatives in Korea to improve the representation of young people in politics and raise awareness of the importance of voting. Consideration was being given to measures to facilitate youth participation in elections, to the introduction of a quota for youth representatives and to the creation of an online environment through which young people could freely share their perspectives. Parliamentary initiatives to heighten youth interest in politics and the legislative process included education programmes, internships and debate tournaments. He recalled that the passion and devotion of the younger generations had served as a guiding light to the Korean people in overcoming its hardships on the road to democratization. He hoped that the Korean example would similarly serve to promote freedom, human rights, peace and prosperity worldwide.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi) said that Burundi supported and practised democracy and that young people could make their voice heard through their presence in the country's institutions. During the elections of 2015, democracy had won the day, despite having been put to the test by those seeking at all costs to stifle it and engineer its failure, including by manipulating young people to engage in acts of violence. The 2015 elections had been properly conducted in conformity with the Constitution. An inclusive dialogue was now being pursued in line with strict democratic principles. The aim of the dialogue was to find lasting solutions to the persistent difficulties associated with national elections. He thanked the IPU for its mission to Burundi. All were welcome to visit Burundi to see for themselves what it was really like and to dispel the many misconceptions about the country.

Barriers to giving a voice to young people in Burundi still remained. For example, young people were disadvantaged in parliamentary elections by the closed-list system and an age requirement. Although the number of young parliamentarians was substantial it must be further increased. Young people also held elected positions in the community, while a youth forum played an important role in bringing together and giving a voice to youth associations. He called on the IPU to continue its support to the Parliament of Burundi. That support aimed to enhance the Parliament's capacity to facilitate a successful conclusion to the inclusive inter-Burundian dialogue in order to stabilize the country's political situation.

Mr. D. KIDEGA (East African Legislative Assembly) observed that it was time for the critical mass of African youth to assume leadership roles. However, young people often remained marginalized while institutional or policy constraints strangled their efforts to climb the political ladder, sometimes deliberately. That perhaps accounted for their waning interest in formal politics. Youth dissatisfaction with and distrust of politicians were indeed powerful barriers. They indicated the need to safeguard youth interests in order to strengthen democracy, which in Africa was experiencing testing times. There had been a failure to tap into the potential of young people. For countries which had recently experienced autocracy, that failure had been compounded by an inability to create viable democratic regimes. In established democracies the visible flaws of the existing systems had often disillusioned those with dynamic ideas. Policymakers and politicians should nonetheless avoid setting too much store by low public confidence in democracy. They should instead work for a paradigm shift, driving the rejuvenation of democracy and revival of youth interest in politics through a youth-friendly agenda that focused on increased accountability.

In addition to discharging their traditional mandate, legislatures must also advocate for a thriving democracy at all levels. A democracy rejuvenated in that way would encourage young people to participate fully and make their contribution to development, including through national youth institutions, youth slots in parliament, youth mobility, enhanced education and youth employment. Given their position at the forefront of new technologies, young people were also well equipped to lead work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to take advantage of emerging opportunities, in which they must have their say.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that he favoured a holistic approach to the rejuvenation of democracy. However, that approach was challenged by some politicians, especially in developing countries, who believed that newcomers posed a threat to their "investment" in politics. Technology that was meaningfully incorporated into politics was likely to be highly effective in attracting the attention of young people and stimulating their political engagement. In many countries, culture played a role in denying young people the opportunity to participate, as certain activities or discussions were regarded as the preserve of adults. In turn, that perpetuated young people's

disinterest in politics as they reached their own adulthood. Regardless of the enabling conditions created by legislation, democracy could not be rejuvenated unless the socio-cultural practices that dissuaded young people from participating in democracy were re-examined.

The great importance that people in Malawi attached to youth empowerment was demonstrated when a youth parliament was established in 2012. It was built with UNICEF assistance and aimed to provide a platform where young people could air their views and concerns on critical issues affecting their lives. It allowed them to alert the authorities to the challenges they faced and to the need for appropriate action. The aim was also to accustom young people from an early age to participate in democracy as a matter of course. However, some activities had been curtailed by a lack of resources. That was another factor that reduced the opportunities for young people to contribute to democracy. The IPU should therefore direct attention to finding a lasting solution to such obstacles that ensured that democracy was entrenched through the world's youth.

Mr. A.M. MOHAMED (Maldives) said that youth alienation from the decision-making process must be addressed by modernizing democracy and enhancing its appeal while remaining true to its fundamentals, which were not in question. Government of the people by the people was often seen as not being for the people as a result of miscommunication between the elected and the electorate. In rejuvenating democracy, greater efforts must therefore be made to prevent misconceptions about government performance. The information gap could be bridged through multiple channels, including social media, conventional rallies and local meetings. Such a shift to a campaign-style governing model with politicians who were highly visible and accessible would make for highly responsive and adaptive governments.

The youth generation was now the largest in history. As a result, action was needed to meet young peoples' aspirations and expectations and involve them in decision-making. In the Maldives Parliament, the vibrancy and vitality of debate had been increased by its under-45-year-old members, who accounted for nearly one half of members and had provided welcome new perspectives for tackling emerging national issues. Young people were a rich resource with great potential. They had a considerable and effective presence in the cabinet and in independent institutions. They were also establishing themselves in business through access to favourable loans. The country's enabling environment for youth continued to promote their engagement. Amplifying their dynamic voice still further would help to revitalize democracy, which would only be truly youthful when young people were given a greater stake in it.

Ms. H. KUTT (Estonia) said that, although it was necessary to discuss the reasons for waning public confidence in democratic institutions, that debate should not overshadow the more positive and encouraging aspects of the future of democracy. Estonia had transformed politically and socially into a strong democratic republic. Public commitment to Estonia's future was clearly demonstrated by relatively high turnouts at elections and by the expansion of civil society, which parliamentarians must embrace as a partner. Unfair treatment or failure to improve young people's quality of life could have serious consequences. Disappointed and dissatisfied young people could start to exclude themselves from democratic and political processes. Young Estonians had therefore been afforded priority in policymaking, which had led to positive results. In addition, the voting age was set to be lowered to 16 in 2017.

Estonia had long been known for e-government and advanced e-services. It had pioneered a reliable and confidential Internet voting system that had resulted in the added bonus of increasing youth participation at elections. Workshops, forums and simulations for teaching young people the theory and practice of democratic processes offered another vital format for promoting youth involvement. Those events allowed students to discuss important topics with peers and consider them from a decision-making perspective. Such measures would help young people to acquire a lifelong voting habit and understand that voting was both a right and a responsibility. A strong democracy called for the active and meaningful involvement of all society and of young people in particular. Technological opportunities for facilitating that involvement must be harnessed, yet democracy must never be taken for granted; it required continuous efforts and commitment from all.

Mr. J. JAMALDINI (Pakistan) said that the present turbulent times had presented democratic countries with a morass of ominous challenges. As a result, democratic institutions were under increasing pressure to cope with public expectations and demands. The large number of young people across the world held the key to the wide-ranging reforms that were required to rejuvenate democracy. The hurdles they faced to realizing their potential included extreme poverty, discrimination and lack of information. Yet with proper investment in their education, they could

transform the future through their ideas, ideals and innovations. Indeed, history showed that their actions could inspire millions, trigger revolutions and carve out new frontiers. That was why it was imperative to include young people and harness their enthusiasm in all processes of change, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To be effective in such endeavours, young people must be politically aware, knowledgeable about governance and familiar with the electoral system. Their participation in democratic and political processes was key to better decision-making, actions and outcomes stemming from their unique experiences but was nonetheless fraught with challenges. Those included a failure to be adequately heard and impediments to the exercise of their political and human rights. In addition to greater links between legislatures and young people through improved outreach, parliamentarians must also aim to create conditions that were conducive to encouraging young people to open the doors of opportunity and find new solutions for reinvigorating the systems in place. Youth-led contributions to parliamentary democracy must be given priority through strong partnerships and investment in youth capacity-building. As Kofi Annan had rightly said, young people must be included from birth.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) recalled the saying that Earth was borrowed from its children and the fact that the world's youth population was now the largest ever. She said that young people must be given a voice in deciding their own future and that of their children. However, young people continued to be chronically under-represented in the world's parliaments. They should be proactively involved as early as possible in developing their future, including by prioritizing the inclusive and coherent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals so that what had been borrowed could be handed back in the same, or even better, condition.

In that context, industrialized countries must work to support sustainable agriculture, create a fair and inclusive trading system, foster peace and intensify conflict prevention. Above all, the international community must fight climate change and promote renewable energies: the Paris Agreement should only be seen as a first step in the right direction. The international community also had a duty to provide a future for the millions of refugees under 18 years of age and to avoid losing an entire generation to wars and conflicts that were not of their making. The root causes of migration, including wealth inequality, must therefore be tackled. Issues of sustainable change, equality and freedom must also be addressed, not least to alleviate the disproportionate suffering of the most fragile members of society, notably women and children. The present inhabitants of Earth must be prepared to be held to account when their children came to claim back their planet.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland) cited IPU statistical data on youth representation in parliaments and said that much remained to be done in the Swiss Parliament, where youth quotas were not in use. There were no young parliamentarians aged under 30 in the upper house and a very small number in the lower house. However, the Constitution required the national authorities to encourage children and young people to become independent and socially responsible. The authorities must also promote the social, cultural and political integration of children and young people. A special federal commission had been tasked with making appropriate recommendations and proposals to fulfil those requirements.

A parliamentary session was held each year at which young Swiss people debated topical issues and submitted collective petitions for action. Some petitions had been successful. Lowering the voting age to 16 years old was currently a subject of intense debate and controversy in Switzerland. Another initiative to establish youth parliaments was in progress but it was in its infancy. Other projects designed to encourage the participation of young Swiss people in political and democratic processes were described in detail in her statement on the IPU website. Such projects included: *easyvote*, which had its own website and organized awareness campaigns; *JuniorParl*, a website for young people interested in politics; *CiviCampus*, a civic education website; and *Tellvetia*, a short animated film. Parliamentarians should be inspired by young people's energy and channel their own energies into working for the social, cultural, professional and political integration of young people.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation) said that, as the most active and dynamic members of society, young people had a key role in advancing the democratic processes of all countries, especially in countries with young and developing democracies. As the future political elite, young people must be imbued with the qualities needed to govern as statespeople who placed national interests above their own careers. In his country, young people had voting rights and young parliamentarians had seats in both houses, although in proportions that could and should be bettered. Efforts to enhance the political skills and experience of young people were therefore being made through such initiatives as the establishment of youth parliaments across the country.

Digital technologies were also being employed to disseminate information on future legislation and to encourage related online debate. Dedicated websites had been established for enabling young people to discuss the challenges facing them and report problems experienced with public facilities.

The Russian Federation already provided international platforms designed to bring together young people from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Asia-Pacific region, including parliamentarians, in order to exchange experiences on a range of topics. The country would also be hosting the XIX World Festival of Youth and Students in 2018 and its Parliament had offered to host the 136<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Saint Petersburg.

Mr. A. DADASON (Iceland), speaking as a young parliamentarian, said that political structures and the political environment must be made more interesting to youth if their participation in politics was to increase. Young people tended to believe that politics had less impact on their daily lives than in previous times when political party connections were instrumental to the successful conduct of personal or business matters. The Internet was driving change, with social media now playing a significant role in the dissemination of information about parliamentary activities. However, it was still the case small numbers of people were interested in political engagement.

In order to improve that situation, he suggested that social media should be used for functions beyond that of a public relations tool for individual parliamentarians. Politics must keep pace with the fast-moving world of technology; but it must also offer wider opportunities for young people to wield real influence and be involved in decision-making through direct democracy. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU had put forward viable proposals for increasing youth participation in politics. Open-mindedness was a critical part of the success of those proposals. Parliamentarians must be ready to believe in and support young people and their ideas, including by listening to proposals that took a different approach.

Mr. K. CHIN HAN (Malaysia) affirmed that meaningful democracy required the meaningful participation and representation of young people. That would promote active citizenship, strengthen social responsibility and enhance democratic processes. With their energy and enthusiasm, young people were typically at the forefront of new technologies and ideas. They could therefore infuse democracy with fresh perspectives. Unfortunately, the voices of young people were often overlooked in policymaking and had little influence in national political institutions. That could lead to dissatisfaction among young people, a decrease in their participation at elections and a fall in the youth membership of political parties. Young people should be offered the chance to participate in planning and decision-making as well as the chance to be involved in responsible, challenging work that aimed to meet genuine needs.

Improving youth political participation was one of the ways to foster leadership and empowerment among young people. Political programmes targeting young people should therefore aim to develop the knowledge, skills, qualities, values and experience needed for them to make positive decisions in their political lives. Politicians and decision-makers must ensure that there was sufficient political will to address the needs of young people and to commit to making their voices heard on all levels. The partnerships built with young people should ensure that they were not only partners but also beneficiaries of the democratic process. The official focus in his country was on instilling a positive mindset and values essential to interesting young people in politics, including through a new national youth transformation programme. All such measures would promote youth understanding of democratic processes and afford a new dimension to the rejuvenation of democracy.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel) called for an end to global terror, which he said was a major threat to democracy and young people worldwide. Dramatic developments in recent years had highlighted the increasingly important role of young people in politics generally, and in democratic politics in particular. In their quest for jobs and a better quality of life, young people were often frustrated. They increasingly blamed their hardships on an older generation whose life experiences they did not share and whom they regarded as sometimes indifferent to their needs. In developing countries, demographics had an impact on those needs. In developed countries, young people took peace and prosperity for granted and enjoyed the mobility offered by globalization; but they envied the job and pension security of the older generation.

Young people felt empowered by modern technologies to work outside formal party structures when organizing mass protest movements. Young people had brought about political change in various countries. However, as long as more institutionalized party politics remained absent, those successes could ultimately trigger greater frustration and possibly lead to

radicalization. Democracy enabled young people to vent those frustrations and turn them into constructive political action, which could influence policy. It was therefore the best method for alleviating intergenerational conflict, provided that all components of society remained in constant dialogue so as to maintain the balance needed for stability. Israel had a long-standing democratic tradition. Notwithstanding external and internal threats, the country had always continued to preserve and abide by democratic principles and to teach democratic values to its next generation.

Mr. A. SCHIEDER (Austria) said that young people were the key to shaping the future. Participation in elections and commitment to civil society were similarly important for a vibrant democracy that necessarily reached out to and was inclusive of all social groups. Mindful of the fact that political education was a prerequisite for helping young people to become actively engaged citizens, the Austrian Parliament ran a successful programme of interactive workshops for teaching children and young teenagers how democracy functioned. The programme had been running since 2007. It was now a cornerstone of political education, which was geared to such strategic goals as: strengthening democratic awareness and understanding democracy; removing obstacles to participation in democratic processes; ensuring that young people had positive experiences of democracy; and raising awareness among individuals about processes that undermined or threatened democracy.

In 2007, the voting age in Austria had been lowered to 16. That had provided opportunities for young people to engage in the democratic process. It had also created challenges for parliamentarians about how to ensure that young people remained engaged and were kept properly informed about democracy. Young people were critical and would not cast votes simply because they had the legal right to do so. That was confirmed by statistics on the youth turnout in the country's most recent parliamentary elections. The quality of political decision-making and debate was therefore another core issue in promoting political engagement among young people who would shape the future of the world.

Ms. N. MOTSAMAI (Lesotho) stated that the theme of the debate offered an opportunity for parliamentarians to reflect on their progress since the 122<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in 2010. Parliamentarians should ask themselves how far they had carried through their strong resolve to spearhead youth participation in the democratic process and ensure that young people were not marginalized in decision-making processes. They should consider whether they had been making adequate efforts to ensure that young people understood their role. They should also reflect on whether they were giving young people the support they needed to exercise the participation rights accorded to them in various international instruments.

Poverty, unemployment and social problems were among the myriad challenges facing the large youth population in Lesotho. The country was pursuing a national youth policy whose aim was to achieve the meaningful engagement of young people in politics and development. The policy measures were being coordinated by a national youth council. Citizen could vote at 18 years old and substantial numbers of young people were members of political parties. Such membership allowed them a critical platform through which to influence party policy and decision-making. Significant progress had been made towards achieving equal political participation by all, including for young people. For example, the authorities were committed to overcoming all relevant legal, social and cultural barriers; encouraging inclusiveness in political party structures; tapping into the existing skill base; and supporting civil society organizations in their youth-related activities, such as the organization of an annual youth parliament. She looked forward to the recommendations of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU, as they would clearly have a bearing on the discussion.

Mr. A. ROMANOVICH (Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States — IPA CIS) said that his organization, made up of the nine CIS parliaments, welcomed the opportunity provided by its new status as an associate member of the IPU to increase its cooperation with the Organization. IPA CIS worked to harmonize the national legislation of its member States with international laws and CIS treaties through the development of model laws. That work included the highly relevant subject area of youth issues, which was a key priority for IPA CIS. Indeed, IPA CIS organized numerous activities for young people, which aimed to promote parliamentary democracy and democratic principles, as well as human rights and fundamental freedoms. The CIS Interparliamentary Youth Assembly brought together young parliamentarians in order to facilitate cooperation, dialogue and exchange of best practices among CIS members. The CIS Interparliamentary Youth Forum focused on youth cooperation at the international level. He hoped that the experiences of IPA CIS in engaging young people in political processes would be instructive for the IPU membership.

Mr. D. VALERA (Mexico) said that democracy in Mexico was being consolidated. It remained far from perfect, and had given rise to calls for more responsible, pluralistic and inclusive representation. Society looked to its young members to generate a paradigm shift and to construct transparent governments that would create a new dynamic and bring opportunities for all. Rejuvenation meant not only opening up more public space for young people but also rejuvenating the political system and economic models. Despite efforts to improve the situation, many young Mexicans did not identify with a political party, were disinterested in politics or did not understand it. The young people involved in political groups were often products of the system. They perpetuated existing practices that new young blood would seek to change, if in a position to do so. Mexico needed young people with the maturity and strength to take on the system and put the interests of the country and the people before their own.

The development strategy of creating special economic zones to promote trade and industry in poorer parts of Mexico had failed to prevent the young from migrating in search of better lives, as the economic zones strategy had no accompanying investment in education and training. Such strategies only provided half the answer and ignored the need for young people to participate in development and growth. To enable new young leaders to come to power and build a new world, steps must be taken to educate the young and engage them in productive activity.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that democracy was the best of imperfect political systems. All beings in a true democracy had equal value and an equal vote. However, all political systems must be open to change, improvement and regeneration in order to adapt to new circumstances, while still retaining their basic principles. It was often difficult to mobilize new voters. Efforts must be made to identify why young people felt estranged from democratic processes, in order to rejuvenate the system, give young people a voice and attract them into the fold. Young people were understandably disillusioned with democracy when faced with factors such as corruption, economic recession, unemployment and lack of opportunities. The problem was compounded by the systemic failure to keep pace with new technological realities and to speak the language of young people. Measures that had been taken so far to encourage greater political participation among young people had included webcasting parliamentary sittings, establishing youth parliaments and lowering the age at which one could vote and stand as a candidate in elections.

Some Portuguese politicians had won support from young people because of their communication skills and ability to capture imaginations in their electoral campaigns. But if democracy was to be rejuvenated, political leaders needed to be more than excellent communicators. They must be credible, trustworthy, open to change and capable of mobilizing support. In short, they must fulfil their responsibility to create a better democratic future for the younger generation.

Mr. S. VARNAVA (Cyprus) said that the involvement of young people in democratic processes had remained relatively limited. Despite that, their concerns and views were vital to planning for the future of a world where under-25s accounted for almost half of the population. Meaningful participation in influencing and forming decisions and actions must therefore start early in life. Young people could then share responsibility for matters affecting their future. Democracy could not be rejuvenated through the electoral process alone. That was why parliamentarians had a duty to coordinate efforts to facilitate the participation of young people in democracy and decision-making through the establishment of appropriate structures, with an emphasis on education.

Reforms and innovations towards assisting youth engagement in contemporary democracies must go further. They must recognize the pivotal role of young people in contributing to community activity, particularly by promoting involvement in youth work and youth-oriented organizations. Such reforms and innovations would facilitate the social integration of the younger generation and help it to cope with modern-day challenges and anxieties characterized by ambiguity, self-centredness and marginalization. The direct involvement of young people in the democratic process and in political life at the local and regional levels was critical to safeguarding democracy and sustainable development, as well as to preserving the legitimacy of democratic decision-making. The answer lay in inclusion, not exclusion.

Mr. S. SUZUKI (Japan) recalled the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, hosted by the Japanese National Diet in 2015, at which young parliamentarians from across the globe had shared their valuable experiences of democracy, peace and prosperity. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU served as a vital platform for young parliamentarians to discuss matters relating to democracy, politics and global challenges.

In 2015, Japanese electoral law had been amended to lower the voting age. Eighteen-year-olds would therefore take part in the next parliamentary elections for the first time. The wider engagement of young people in politics was a matter of ongoing public discussion in Japan and the subject of new measures designed to promote such engagement. All members of society must give constant thought to the conduct of political and democratic processes. Young people were future leaders and were therefore a major asset both to individual countries and to the global community as a whole. The younger generation must therefore be safeguarded and sustained.

Ms. Y. FERRER GÓMEZ (Cuba) said that true democracy led by young people and including all generations had long been in place in Cuba. It was not an imported copy, but one of a kind. Nominations and elections were decided by the people: any adult could nominate another citizen to stand for municipal elections. Those elections were conducted by direct secret ballot, while social organizations proposed parliamentary candidate lists. The Communist Party of Cuba was not an electoral party and the concept of the single-party system was successfully reconciled with the broadest democracy.

The Cuban people were actively involved in the country's governing bodies, in debates on public matters and in the development and monitoring of public policy. All 16-year-olds with the right to vote were automatically registered free of charge, and officials could be removed from their positions if they no longer fulfilled the conditions for representing the people. The younger generation was vitally engaged in the political and social processes that were essential to building prosperous and lasting socialism; but they also brought new knowledge to those processes. Participation was a constitutional right and duty for all young Cubans and 15 per cent of parliamentarians were now under 30 years of age. The future of the country was entrusted to its youth.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait) said that he was compelled to speak of the substance of democracy, its conceptual aspects and its outcomes. A particular matter of concern was the idea that the public should tolerate the actions of established democratic institutions, even if those actions were out of keeping with democratic values. Having been created for the furtherance of democratic governance, the rule of law, tolerance, justice and equality, democratic institutions that deviated from such objectives became a source of risk. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it was unacceptable for entities to oppress human beings simply because they had been democratically elected. He said that he was referring to Israel and its acts of violence and aggression against the Palestinian people. They were an injustice that had persisted for almost 70 years, contrary to all democratic values and rights. Notwithstanding the many international resolutions in favour of its self-determination, the Palestinian people stood defenceless in the face of armed Israeli soldiers, yet Palestinians were imprisoned under Israeli laws for throwing stones. Such suffering was overlooked because it was being inflicted by a State that called itself democratic. The international community must assume its responsibility and take action to end such barbarity and suffering, which had already lasted far too long.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Sitting of Monday 21 March (Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Mr. P. Matibini (Zambia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth***

The PRESIDENT said that the guest speakers both represented extraordinarily high achievements of young people in their respective countries.

Mr. V. NAYAK (United States of America), *digital constituency manager, Obama 2012 re-election campaign*, said that as a 23 year old, the subject of the general debate was highly relevant to his own future and that of billions of young people around the world. Consideration must be given as to why young people tended not to participate in politics, and why they felt disconnected from society. That disengagement was not simply about how likely they were to vote. They were also less likely than older people to contact elected officials about issues that concerned them. However, young people were more likely to feel cynical about politics, to feel that politicians were corrupt and to see the system as rigged. Lack of political participation was therefore not a problem in itself, but rather a symptom of a broad sense of disconnection from political life.

That was not to say that young people did not care about their future. On the contrary, they cared deeply but engaged in a new way. They shared their views with each other outside the political system, online and through social media. Young people were also likely to use online tools to fuel large-scale social movements because they did not believe in the political system in its current form. Consideration must therefore be given as to how politics could be transformed so that young people no longer participated on the peripheries alone; as to how self and society could be reconnected; and as to how politics could be brought to young people by giving them the tools for engagement.

As a teenager, he had felt disconnected from politics. He had heard about a politician from his home state running for President and had volunteered on Barack Obama's first presidential campaign. That had given him a sense of pride and participation. When working on President Obama's re-election campaign four years later, he had communicated with more than 100,000 people, using the Internet to connect politics and young people. Through a system of complex algorithms that helped people share information about voting, some 1.5 million Americans had registered to vote, including large numbers of young people. Young people must be given the tools to participate not just in elections but in governance as well: government events should be streamed live; the voting age and age for running for office should both be lowered; the casting of votes should be facilitated. Consideration should be given as to how to make young people's voices heard in every aspect of society. Seventy million young people were unemployed around the world. There were 300,000 children serving as soldiers, and 15 million girls faced the prospect of becoming child brides each year. Neither the younger, nor the older generation could overcome such challenges alone: they must be addressed together. By choosing togetherness and transformation over division and resignation, politics, laws – and the world – could be changed.

Ms. C. PHIRI (Zambia), *World Boxing Council Bantam Weight World Champion 2016*, said that she had grown up in an impoverished, overpopulated village near Lusaka and had dropped out of school in ninth grade. She had experienced the prospect of making little progress in life. After school, she had begun to train as a boxer. A manager had spotted her and given her the chance to train intensively and fight professionally. She had won the bantamweight world championship in January 2016.

Until 2010, women had been prevented from boxing, but changes in Zambian legislation had then lifted the ban on professional boxing for women. She had been supported and guided in her career, and had drawn on her personal strengths of self-discipline and determination. She had been given the opportunity to return to school. She was studying in twelfth grade, maintaining focus and putting her education first. She recognized education as a crucial aspect of her personal development. Education for women and girls were particularly important, because of their central role in the household. Education improved public health, gave mothers a better understanding of health risks and diseases, and promoted childcare and good health. Education was a lifelong gift and should be offered to all young people. As someone who knew what it meant to be poor, she

understood the critical importance of providing education for vulnerable children in poor communities. As elected representatives of the people, parliamentarians had a duty and the authority to see that education and sport were well funded and that every child went to school.

*Resumption of the debate*

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that the younger generation was under great pressure from various economic and social factors, including high unemployment. Their lives were becoming less linear, as they were no longer guaranteed social and employment security. While that came with greater freedom, it also meant less security. Young people's interest in politics was limited, trust in political representatives was declining and voter turnout was low. Young people were seeking new ways to participate in society, mostly through social networks. That was strengthening both the potential for protest and non-institutionalized political participation. Young people's participation must be encouraged. They should be informed about the potential achievements that could arise from their involvement in society.

The needs, circumstances and aspirations of young people should be taken into account in all policies. Local traditions should be borne in mind; but other countries' experiences and best practices could also be drawn on and adopted where appropriate. Primary schools, youth associations, community centres, and local labour and social security services were all suitable environments for integrating young people into the community. Slovenia had enacted national legislation and programmes for youth. In 2013, the first youth policy had been adopted, which aimed to increase active citizenship. A national youth council monitored the extent to which youth interests were taken into account in national policies. The council provided incentives and suggestions on how to approach youth matters, and promoted the participation of young people in decision-making that affected them.

When promoting youth participation and monitoring participation rates, efforts should be made to avoid increasing the gap between winners and losers. That was particularly important with regard to vulnerable or marginalized young people with limited opportunities, such as those with a migrant background or those who had grown up away from their own family. Young people must be aware of the need to be heard in public and be given a voice. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU was in a unique position to contribute to efforts to meet the challenges faced by young people.

Mr. A. AL AHMAD (Palestine) said that the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly was taking place against the backdrop of an increasingly unstable world in which acts of terrorism were wreaking havoc in many countries. It was therefore more important than ever to care for the younger generation, promote their causes and afford them every possible opportunity for a bright and prosperous future by giving them the tools they needed to unleash their creativity. Conditions in Palestine were especially difficult due to the continued Israeli occupation, and enduring and increasing acts of aggression. No day went by without innocent Palestinian people being killed in cold blood: many were unarmed women and children. Arbitrary administrative detentions were on the rise. Military checkpoints had been set up on the roads between towns, villages and camps. They were restricting freedom of movement, the enjoyment of economic and social rights, the provision of health services and the right to health. The Israeli Knesset was considering several Bills which clearly violated the principles and policies of the IPU and starkly contravened the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The international community must defend its principles and international law in order to protect the Palestinian people and end the occupation. Parliamentary democracy had an important role to play in ensuring that State terrorism, from which Palestinians had been suffering for decades, was brought to an end and that peace, freedom and justice was ensured for all.

Mr. R. LEÓN (Chile) said that democracy was not only a political system, but also a constant striving for freedom, justice, progress and equality. Building democracy was an ongoing task. It was a way to build trust, ensure respect for freedoms and avoid conflicts of interest. The time had come to take stock of the progress and changes that had taken place within society. Democracy did not mean the same thing to everyone, yet all parliamentarians had a duty to abide by and promote the Universal Declaration on Democracy. It was time to renew and reform not only democracy, but also the IPU and its structures, in order to make a more meaningful contribution to global initiatives. Although the IPU had a presence in many international forums, it did not have the capacity to contribute in a way that made a difference. The IPU should be able to send messages of solidarity to Member Parliaments facing challenging times. Rejuvenating democracy was also about the human rights of parliamentarians. The IPU must change with society, or it would be left behind.

Mr. A. THIAM (Mali) said that he was the youngest member of the Malian Parliament and the youngest leader of a political party in Mali. Mali had a young population: 53 per cent of the population was under 18 years of age. Several youth associations had been set up through which young people could promote their causes, including a youth parliament, a national youth council and a network of young parliamentarians. One of the main problems for young people in Mali was the lack of capacity for job creation in the formal economy. Mechanisms were being developed to increase levels of employment and improve young people's skills, experience and employability. There had already been some positive results and projections for 2016 were good. Despite that progress, young people in Mali were faced with considerable challenges on education, immigration, armed conflicts and the effects of globalization.

If citizens were to have a better quality of life and be involved in decision-making processes, democracy required that they participate in the public life of their country. Young parliamentarians must therefore raise awareness and foster a culture of democracy and peace among citizens. Youth associations had been set up to encourage young people to participate in party politics. The young parliamentarians' network provided a context for young people to learn about legislative work and oversight of government action. With the expansion of technology, particularly social media, young people's voices were increasingly heard. A recent visit from representatives of the United Nations Security Council had been a welcome step towards the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Agreement would be particularly beneficial to young people. The young parliamentarians of Mali would be forever grateful to the international community and Mali's partners, for their assistance in restoring peace and security to Mali after years of suffering.

Ms. A. TRETTEBERGSTUEN (Norway) said that just two years previously, Norway had been the only country with more than 10 per cent of parliamentarians aged below 35 years. Since then, progress had been made in many countries, which proved that better representation could be achieved. Action should be taken to give power to youth representatives. The high numbers of young members in the Norwegian Parliament was not a coincidence, nor had it been achieved through youth or gender quotas. Youth-related non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were strongly supported in Norway and were considered a cornerstone of Norwegian democracy. It was not sufficient to organize conferences once in a while at which politicians listened to young people. Youth NGOs should be part of the governmental structure. They should be heard every day through mechanisms such as Norway's permanent council, which allowed government representatives and youth NGOs to meet regularly to discuss politics.

Youth councils should be established to create engagement and prepare young people for political participation. Such councils had been set up in 90 per cent of municipalities in Norway. The minimum voting age should be lowered, as should the age for standing for election. Young people would see no reason to engage in politics if they did not have the right to vote. In Norway, the minimum age to vote and to stand as a candidate was 18. Consideration was being given to lowering both to 16. That had already been done successfully at the municipal level and had proved that young people cared about the future of their cities. Although young people were more engaged than ever in society, they tended to engage in new ways. That was because they saw politics as boring, thought that politicians did not listen and felt that they could not deliver change. Better communication was therefore crucial. Social media should be used so as to harness young people's own communication channels and speak their language. The time had come to change the way politics was done, move away from meeting rooms, and reach out through schools, cafés and sports events. Youth participation should be achieved through action, not words. The IPU should also take action, by requiring youth representation in every delegation to its Assemblies.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada) said that the active involvement of young people would help to change politics and the world. Empowering younger and more progressive voices would be of great benefit when taking action on issues such as climate change, governance, education, electoral reform, drugs policy and privacy. Young parliamentarians also tended to exhibit greater gender diversity. Consideration should be given as to how to engage young people in politics. Youth empowerment would also have intrinsic benefits, given the significant size of the world's youth population. Communication was key to youth engagement, particularly through the use of technology and social media. Civic education initiatives should be undertaken to build the habits of informed and engaged citizens. Teaching young people to follow current affairs was particularly important. Creating familiarity with electoral processes was also critical and could be achieved through mock elections held in schools.

Youth councils and caucuses in government and political parties could also be effective. Governments should not just listen, but also act on young people's recommendations. Electoral law could be reformed: the voting age could be lowered, electronic voting could be used, polling stations placed on university campuses, and petitions permitted that would prompt government action. Proportional representation or youth representation quotas could also be introduced. Issues that were important to young people should be addressed, including environmental protection, ending poverty, making education affordable, creating employment opportunities and taking a health-based approach to drug policy. The most important way of engaging young people in politics was to reconsider how to approach politics, think about politics, and act as politicians. Politics should be about ideas, passion and inspiration. Voters would respond to a positive message.

In order to engage young people, politicians must be willing to answer questions, respond to concerns and be accessible through a variety of platforms. They must look for young people who otherwise would not seek out politics themselves. Politicians must be honest and say what they thought, not what their audience wanted to hear. Young people were particularly cynical towards the staged and manufactured character of modern politics. Corruption was seriously damaging to the credibility of institutions and must be stopped. If politicians were positive, passionate, open, accessible, authentic, honest and principled, they could gain the respect of young voters and rejuvenate democracy.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) said that parliamentary democracy was facing challenges. While the younger generation should usually act as a catalyst to inspire change, their lack of enthusiasm was currently a particular challenge. Even though it was still compulsory to vote in Belgium, the number of citizens who did not vote was rising. Where voting was not mandatory, turnout was even lower. Only in young democracies were people prepared to travel long distances to queue in front of a polling station, clearly appreciative of a system in which every person had the same influence in the distribution of political power. In older democracies, a sense of resignation and defeatism had set in. That situation should alarm parliamentarians, since no political system was better than democracy. Democracy must be upheld, protected and improved. Decision-making processes should be expedited, political jargon should be simplified, and more understandable and accessible communication should be promoted. Parliamentarians should reach out to the public to explain to young people how elected representatives worked and what they did. MPs should not lecture young people, but invite them to visit parliament and make proposals. Parliamentarians should teach young people to debate, and should listen to their suggestions. Although such an exercise would not be easy and would take time, it was highly necessary and must begin as soon as possible.

Mr. Y.S. LASUN (Nigeria) said that young people were the greatest assets of any nation. They were not just the leaders of the future; their creativity, productivity, ingenuity and energy could be harnessed to meet today's challenges. Youth participation in democratic processes was not a new issue. It had been addressed in several resolutions of the UN General Assembly, as well as in the resolution adopted by the 122<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly in 2010.

Since Nigeria had gained independence, successive governments had initiated programmes and projects for youth, both in and outside the school environment. A Ministry of Youth and Sport had been established and sport, youth, culture and community development programmes had been initiated by local governments. National programmes had been set up to promote national unity and integration, and to expose university graduates to leadership roles in community development. Despite those efforts, young people remained vulnerable with unmet needs and aspirations. Particular challenges included difficult family situations, lack of appropriate role models, poor education, unemployment and the political manipulation of youth organizations. Clear targets and objectives had therefore been set in Nigeria to increase the participation of young people in democratic processes.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that a new type of Islamic democracy was being created in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Opportunities for public participation were increasing and voter turnout was on the rise. Women's and young people's rights were respected and equal opportunities were provided for all. Young people were increasingly involved in decision-making and the Iranian Parliament was willing to share its experiences in that regard. A global youth parliament, under the supervision of international organizations such as the IPU, should be established to promote youth participation and to draw attention to young people's rights at the global level.

Since a nuclear agreement had been reached between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the P5+1 countries, good conditions had been created for improving regional and international relations and for enhancing joint efforts to prevent the violence, terrorism and extremism that threatened global peace and security. Crises and disputes in the Middle East had been intensified by foreign military interventions: a humanitarian disaster had ensued. It was therefore crucial to end the flow of military and financial support to irresponsible armed groups. The IPU could play a determining role in seeking a political solution to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. That solution should allow the Syrian people to make a decision about their future through free and competitive elections. Other countries in the region, such as Iraq and Palestine, were suffering under foreign occupation. The Islamic Republic of Iran was ready to support democratic and humanitarian processes to extinguish the fires of war.

Mr. B. BENTO (Angola) said that, as a State that was consolidating its democracy, Angola attached particular importance to all measures that built public confidence in democratic institutions. The time had come to consider how political institutions could reach out to young people by using new forms of communication, particularly the Internet and social media. They had unparalleled power to disseminate information, and could be used as a platform for discussion and dialogue, and for sharing experiences and best practices. As a result, they could contribute to dispelling cynicism about democratic processes. Science and technology could be used to increase political representation through electoral processes, and so contribute to the participation of young people in decision-making processes. Angola was making efforts to open political dialogue to all young people without distinction and positive results had been achieved so far.

Mr. S. LIENGBONLERTCHAI (Thailand) said that Thailand was reforming in order to establish a true democracy. Over recent decades, the situation in Thailand had shown that democracy was more than just elections: to be truly democratic, elections must be free and fair. The younger generation was the best group to begin with, in order to instil the principles and values of genuine democracy. With that in mind, Thailand had launched its project *Democratic Youth* in 2015. It had involved hundreds of participants from around the country, aged between 15 and 20 years. The project had aimed to instil a greater understanding of democratic principles among Thai youth. Thailand had enacted domestic legislation and ratified international conventions to protect the rights of children and young people. Genuine and sustainable democracy could only be achieved through social integration and national reconciliation. People from all sectors of society should be empowered to participate in political processes. Thailand counted on the continued support of the IPU and other partners to achieve the goal of establishing a true democracy in which the people of Thailand could put real faith.

Mr. S. YANG (Cambodia) said that over the past 30 years, Cambodia had witnessed a profound transformation in all aspects of its society. It had turned from a conflict-stricken country into one that had enshrined the principles of multiparty democracy in its Constitution and that regularly held free and fair elections. Although most people aspired to democratic governance, the experience of what might be called democracy was often disappointing. Many young people around the world were affected by unemployment, poor education, lack of access to healthcare, and the negative impacts of migration, climate change, violence and conflict. Young people often bore the brunt of economic and social hardship. They were also politically underrepresented: less than two per cent of the world's parliamentarians were aged below 30 years.

For societies to run smoothly, everyone must be represented in governance and decision-making, particularly young people. They had the energy, skills, expertise and talent that would contribute to social and economic development. Youth participation was crucial for the rejuvenation of democratic institutions, and would be the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The IPU had already done a great deal to promote youth participation in democracy: it had adopted relevant resolutions and established both the Forum of Young Parliamentarians and the annual Conference of Young Parliamentarians. In order to further include young people in politics and democratic processes, quotas should be set for the number of young people in parliament and political parties; the minimum voting age and age of eligibility to run for office should be lowered; youth committees should be established in parliaments; and young political leaders must be protected against all forms of violence and discrimination.

Mr. A. ELA NTUGU NSA (Equatorial Guinea) said that the discussion on rejuvenating democracy had come at a critical time in the political and social life of Equatorial Guinea. Recent constitutional reforms had resulted in increased political participation, particularly among the

younger members of society. For example, there had been a notable increase in voter registration before the most recent election. Serious consideration should be given as to why there had been a loss of trust in democratic institutions, and why young people felt such a sense of apathy towards politics. The global economic crisis had resulted in large-scale unemployment and had impeded democratic processes. In turn, that had led to a loss of confidence in public institutions. Social policies must therefore focus on job creation, particularly for young people, with a greater emphasis on lasting employment.

In Equatorial Guinea, policies had been developed to foster young people's participation in democratic processes. As a result, more young people had voted and run for office in the 2013 elections. The Speaker of the House of Representatives was a young parliamentarian, and young people held posts in government ministries and the Cabinet of Ministers. Democracy had been undermined by recent phenomena in society, particularly the development of new technologies and communications tools. They had changed the face of communication and had the potential to undermine freedom, which was the cornerstone of democracy. Investment in education for young people was crucial. It would allow young people to grow up knowing how to fulfil their responsibilities in a variety of areas, how to fully exercise their rights and how to achieve development. The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians was a particularly significant factor in the promotion of youth participation, which could benefit societies across the world.

*Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. A. CORREIA (Guinea-Bissau) said that youth participation was fundamental for the future of democracy. Parliamentarians had a duty to constantly reinvent and update democracy, in order to make it more efficient and participatory. Democracy was not simply a question of casting votes; it was about realizing the interests of the people. Over recent years, young people had been at the centre of major political action, making their voices heard on issues such as the Arab Spring, migration and anti-war campaigns. Young people must be involved in rejuvenating democracy. There were some 600 million young people around the world who were at risk of marginalization, radicalization and extreme violence.

The new generation was well prepared to face development challenges. Parliamentary action must therefore be taken to increase youth involvement, so that young people could always be heard as part of a vibrant democracy. Lack of participation in democracy could result in fragmented societies and could undermine stability. The presence of young people should be valued in all decision-making bodies. Large-scale migration was testament to the dissatisfaction of young people, who were leaving their homes to seek a better life with better opportunities in other countries. Those young people represented the future of Africa, and their mass exodus should therefore be prevented. Cooperation between parliaments at the regional and international levels was crucial in order to rethink democracy, make politics more inclusive, develop opportunities for social and economic emancipation and address the complex problems facing society.

Ms. T. MARTIN (New Zealand) said that the most important aspect of society was people. People put parliamentarians in office and were represented by parliamentarians. They were therefore central to democracy. Like many other countries, New Zealand had been experiencing disengagement among young voters. In 2012, the Government had held a series of campus engagement meetings to identify the reasons for that disengagement. Many young people had said that politics was boring. However, research had shown that, when Parliament had been considering certain pieces of legislation, those issues had also been trending on social media. Young people would engage when topics that affected them were being discussed. The challenge was therefore for parliaments to understand how to maintain that engagement at all times. They must show young people that every piece of legislation and policy would affect their lives and convince them that every vote made a difference.

Before the 2014 elections, the New Zealand electoral commission had run a grant challenge. The brief had been to create an interactive digital platform to engage young people in the electoral process. The first successful applicant had designed an online application that allowed voters to select policy statements. The application then guided them to the relevant political party's website to gather more information. The second applicant had been a website through which young voters had been able to post questions on specific issues and policy areas and receive answers from representatives of political parties. The website also collected data on issues of interest to young people, which could be used by political parties. (That function had been limited to the three-month election campaign period only).

Continuous engagement must be fostered. Time should be allocated for young people to question parliamentarians, either through live blogs or in person. That had been made possible through a New Zealand television programme filmed in a bar, in which members of the public could question panels of political party representatives about issues that concerned them. If parliamentarians felt that they could ask for people's vote, they must be able to be honest with them at all times, not just ahead of elections.

Ms. B. SULEIMAN (Sudan) said that the establishment of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians had been a particularly important step. It had encouraged national parliaments to work on rejuvenating and consolidating their democratic principles with the involvement of all segments of society. Sudan had set up its own young parliamentarians' forum, to continue at the national level the work that the IPU had started internationally. Youth participation was encouraged in all spheres of public life. New and innovative methods were constantly sought to encourage young people to fulfil their roles and responsibilities towards their communities, including through participating in elections. Efforts were being made to improve the economic situation for young people by encouraging them to enter the world of business. A policy was also in place to empower young people to take up civil and administrative professions. A large number of young people held senior leadership positions in the country at all levels of government and decision-making. The empowerment of women was also important. It allowed them to become active vectors of development and to contribute to the well-being of society. More than 30 per cent of Sudan's parliamentarians were women.

Terrorism constituted the greatest threat to humanity and democracy. Violence and religious extremism were increasing all over the world, fuelled by transnational crime including money laundering and trafficking in persons. Sudan was taking measures to counter those threats, including by ratifying international instruments, and adopting and amending domestic legislation. Legislation on transparency and countering corruption had also been adopted. Efforts to counter religious extremism had focused on mediation and dialogue. Peace and stability could only be achieved when all countries were free from foreign occupation. In that regard, the situation in Palestine was particularly worrying. The Sudanese authorities would continue to support efforts to end that occupation. Sudan had achieved stability and was building an inclusive society. The IPU provided a valuable forum for parliamentary dialogue and exchanges of views and experiences, which the Parliament of Sudan greatly appreciated.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that the young Zambians who were working as volunteers to ensure the smooth running of the Assembly were testament to the fact that Zambia's future was in good hands. He had first been elected to Parliament at the age of 34, and had been fascinated by politics from an early age. However, most people did not share that fascination. Many people were interested in politics, but were not engaged. In recent elections in the United Kingdom, 70 per cent of the population aged over 65 years had voted, while only 39 per cent of people aged 18 to 24 years had participated. Many had said they would have voted if "none of the above" had been an option on the ballot paper. Only one per cent of the British population were members of political parties and general identification with political parties was also declining.

When he had asked on social media why young people felt alienated by the political process, he had received worrying responses: older people refused to listen; policies were skewed towards older people; politicians were liars who wanted to enrich themselves at the expense of constituents; politicians all said the same thing; few politicians had ever had "real" jobs; young people's opinions would not change the situation; politicians were not trustworthy; politics was old fashioned; young people were interested in issues, not party politics. In short, young people found the system remote, its practitioners corrupt and the whole process alienating.

There were high levels of youth suicides, mental health issues were not properly addressed, youth unemployment in some European countries was up to 50 per cent and young people were unable to get on the property ladder because of low wages and high house prices. Cynicism was also running high. In the United Kingdom, that alienation was being tackled: a youth parliament had been established that sat in the House of Commons; an education centre had been opened; a report had been commissioned on the alienation of young people from politics; politicians were using social media to connect with young people and were making their work accessible online. Despite those efforts, more should be done. Young people were more than half of the world's population. They must therefore be given a voice, and be involved in setting their own agendas and policy directions.

Ms. C. KASHETU KYENGE (ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly) said that young people often felt excluded from politics, since the main political parties did not tend to address topics that interested them. Young people aged 15 to 25 years accounted for one fifth of the world's population. While they were often involved in informal processes, such as activism, they were not represented in parliaments or other political institutions. Many did not take part in elections. Communication was a crucial issue. Digital communication was increasingly prevalent in society and should be used to reach out to young people. Insufficient attention was paid in political party manifestos to questions that were of interest to young people. As a result, young people felt neglected by politics and had developed a lack of trust in decision-makers. The more young people felt neglected, the less inclined they were to vote.

Young people were citizens of the world. They were the leaders of the future and must become involved in inclusive, democratic governance. Efforts must be made to give them a taste for democracy and encourage them to vote. Parliamentarians should undertake to use innovative methods of increasing youth participation in politics. The use of social media and networking was particularly important to raise awareness of political processes and to communicate with young people. Quota systems could be introduced for young political candidates. Parliamentarians should listen more carefully to young people's concerns and hold meetings with young people's representatives to bring youth issues onto the parliamentary agenda. Particular efforts should be made to reach out to the marginalized. Young people should be invited to visit parliaments, and voting procedures should be simplified to increase the number of people on electoral registers. Young people's participation was essential for strengthening democratic governance and must therefore be encouraged without delay.

Ms. E. DINGIZIAN (Sweden) said that young people were transforming societies in a powerful way. That transformation was part of a process that encouraged young people to take charge of their lives and improve their access to resources. They must be given independence and freedom, no matter what their age or gender. The world's parliamentarians must grasp the opportunity to move democracy forward and promote a diverse system of political parties and organizations, with freedom of speech and expression at its heart. Equal rights and representation for women and men alike in all parts of society must be guaranteed. A sense of the importance of gender equality must be fostered in young people from an early age. Unequal structures in society must be changed and patriarchal structures dismantled: support for women and girls must come from men. Gender equality was central to the Swedish Government's priorities, both in decision-making and in resource allocation.

Equal societies were not only a matter of human rights, equality and justice, but also of prosperity and economic growth. The capacity of the whole population should be used. Gender equality should be seen as part of the solution to challenges regarding justice and economic development. Young people's contributions were crucial. Empowering the young to make independent decisions early in life would give them responsibility. Freedom of association and the right to organize were important elements of that empowerment. Young people should be able to come together to share ideas and experiences, and to network and collaborate in order to further their knowledge of democratic issues and practical skills. Communication across borders was also essential, particularly in view of globalization, which had resulted in significant interdependence between countries and regions. Internet, social media and mobile technology could play a crucial role. They could serve as instruments for participation, transparency and engagement in socioeconomic, cultural and political development. Each country must follow its own unique path to development, taking account of its own culture and history. However, development could only be born from new ideas. Young people had much to contribute in terms of development, both nationally and internationally. Public sector decisions and initiatives should include a youth perspective. Young people should be supported to become independent and participate in decision-making. Young men and women should be given the same opportunities to influence public affairs. All parliaments could do better with regard to accountability and the IPU provided an excellent forum to share experiences in that regard.

Mr. I. ASKEW (World Health Organization - WHO) said that living a healthy and fulfilling life was a basic human right. Parliamentarians were uniquely placed to prioritize actions and investments to protect that right. The IPU played a crucial role in facilitating collaboration between the World Health Organization (WHO) and parliamentarians and in enabling health issues to be put on the parliamentary agenda. The IPU had collaborated with WHO on the development of the Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health. The Strategy sought to end all

preventable deaths among women, children and adolescents by 2030 and to help them achieve their full potential for health and well-being. Adolescent health had not seen the same levels of improvement as child health over recent years, and therefore required accelerated investment.

Adolescent pregnancies accounted for 11 per cent of all births worldwide and complications during pregnancy and childbirth were the second highest cause of death for girls aged 15 to 19 years. Disability due to illnesses and injuries associated with sexual and reproductive health blighted the lives of many adolescents. Safe abortion services could drastically reduce the adverse outcomes among teenage girls who otherwise might have unsafe abortions. Effective contraception among sexually active adolescents could prevent unwanted pregnancies. Despite their enormous potential impact on health, there was limited access to comprehensive sexuality education and to condoms in particular. Both were known to be effective in preventing sexually transmitted infections. Increasing access to those services could effectively reduce the risk of disease and death among many adolescents. However, the hard-earned benefits of investment in health services could be undone by factors such as coercive sex and other violence against young girls, particularly forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as by other gender-based inequalities in education, employment and politics. Parliamentarians could lead the way by advocating investment in health, and by making laws to promote the health and well-being of adolescents.

Ms. P. MATTILA (Finland) said that representative democracies should represent the whole of society and should mirror the needs and desires of all people. Everyone should have a voice to make the message of democracy loud and strong. Despite the large proportion of the global population that was below 35 years of age, only a fraction of parliamentarians were among that age group. A demographic structure weighted towards young people had advantages for societies, such as an abundant workforce to keep the wheels of the economy turning. However, that large workforce required jobs. Without sufficient job creation, there was an increased risk of frustration. Young people might develop the sense that society was letting them down and ignoring their needs. That dissatisfaction could lead to radicalization or mass migration. Since young people were generally more mobile than older generations, they were often overrepresented in groups of migrants. Well-educated people tended to be the first to leave in search of employment and a better future, which resulted in brain drain.

In Finland, the level of youth participation in politics was relatively high. Studies had shown that young people usually had a good general knowledge of politics but a low interest in participation. Greater efforts were therefore needed to ensure that the voices of young people could be heard. Over the course of the past year, the United Nations had adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which were particularly important for young people. The UN Security Council had adopted resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. It urged all Member States to increase youth participation in decision-making at all levels, and focused on the role of young men and women in building peace and countering violent extremism. Education would play a key role in rejuvenating democracy by providing young people with the necessary skills to gather and critically evaluate information.

Mr. J. MILLÁN (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that all people wanted to be represented and heard. With its links to building peace, freedom and equality, democracy was the key to meeting that desire. Steps must be taken to eliminate discrimination and increase the participation of women and young people in democratic processes. Every effort must be made to prevent fraud and corruption and to set the necessary conditions for all parliamentarians to exercise their mandate freely. People should not be deprived of their rights. Where necessary, international humanitarian aid organizations should be able to move freely to eliminate hunger and poverty. Transparency must be enhanced and measures taken to make democracy more inclusive. Democracy was a work in progress and there would always be room for improvement towards a better, fairer society for all. Democracy could not be improved or developed without the full participation of young people. New forms of communication were being developed, and knowledge was being renewed with vertiginous speed. In order to build a better society, young people should be included in democracy.

Mr. I. KRULKO (Ukraine) said that 86 members of the Ukrainian Parliament were under 35 years of age. The Ukrainian delegation to the current Assembly was entirely comprised of young parliamentarians who had been elected in 2014. He wished to draw attention to a young Ukrainian parliamentarian whose rights had been violated and who was being prevented from performing her political duties. In 2014, the Russian Federation had annexed part of Ukraine and begun military

aggression in the eastern part of the country. That had resulted in more than 9,000 deaths and the displacement of more than 2.9 million people. Nadiya Savchenko was a young Ukrainian member of parliament and representative on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. She had been kidnapped by Russian special forces on Ukrainian territory in June 2014. She had since been under arrest in the Russian Federation with false charges laid against her. Her imprisonment in the Russian Federation was a grave violation of international law and of Ms. Savchenko's fundamental rights and freedoms. Ms. Savchenko was also a Ukrainian military officer. In 2014, she had participated in an operation against Russian military activity in eastern Ukraine. All documents in the court case were misrepresented and the proceedings gave every indication of being political. Since 2014, Ms. Savchenko had repeatedly been on hunger strike in protest against the judicial proceedings. Russian prosecutors had demanded a 23-year prison sentence. The IPU, particularly the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, should do everything possible to ensure her immediate release. He urged the IPU and its Member Parliaments to refrain from holding any events in the Russian Federation and occupied Ukraine until Moscow had returned to full compliance with its international legal obligations and commitments.

Mr. G. FARRUGIA (Malta) said that young people were the heirs of the world's natural heritage and prosperity, and the future of each country's economic, social and environmental sustainability. Young people were innovative, adventure-seeking and passionate. In a globalized, digital world, with a rapidly changing society, young people were increasingly disinterested in party politics. The time had come for the world's parliamentarians to consider whether they were good role models; whether they were strengthening democracy and good governance; whether they were doing enough to unlock young people's potential; and whether disengagement from political processes was a sign of young people's weakness or a failure on the part of parliamentarians to reach out.

In general and local elections, voter turnout among young people had reached record lows in both emerging and mature democracies. The many reasons for that disengagement should be addressed collectively and objectively. However, participation in democracy could not be measured by voter turnout alone. In order to sustain social harmony, democratic principles and standards must be upheld at all times, through a 'whole-of-society' approach. Young people must be heard and motivated to lead. They must be empowered, and encouraged to enjoy their rights to freedom of association and expression. Their rights must be protected, and they must be given a sense of belonging, ownership and civic pride. In less developed countries, the right to life must be safeguarded. In times of conflict, differences must be resolved through democratic channels. Young people symbolized hope for the rejuvenation of democracy and their participation was a valuable asset. Their democratic voice should be used to steer nations forward.

Mr. M. MIJATOVIĆ (Serbia) said that welfare States and developed democracies had created strong mechanisms for political and social participation. However, in developing countries and transitional economies, young people were worried about their future. They were turning to extremism because of a dearth of good prospects, low levels of participation in politics and a sense that they lacked influence. Young people around the world were responding to the calls of terrorists and extremists. They were leaving their homes, families and friends, and going to war. Young people must have their say: their struggle for change must be supported, their passion encouraged and their self-confidence boosted. They must be made more aware of how they could change their lives and the destiny of their countries if they remained committed to building democratic institutions.

Young people in Serbia faced many problems. The most acute were economic insecurity and a lack of employment prospects. Efforts to encourage young people to participate in politics had yielded positive results. There were now 97 Serbian parliamentarians under 46 years old. Serbia's young members of parliament had been instrumental in setting up several all-party parliamentary groups, including a women's parliamentary network, an economic caucus and a green group. Democracy was an instrument that could be used to establish proper governance. It must be brought closer to young people, and they must be encouraged to take responsibility into their own hands. Young people had the capacity to change democratic institutions and adjust them to suit their own needs. That was crucial for the vitality of democratic society.

Mr. G.F. TRENZI (San Marino) said that the world was undergoing a time of change. That meant that the future of democracy should be seriously considered, particularly in terms of how to ensure continued public engagement in democratic processes as well as new ways of participating in decision-making. Young people were a precious resource and must be appropriately represented in political institutions. Proper representation would ensure that dialogue between the

generations was maintained, and that a balance was struck between experience and innovation. Conditions must be created to encourage young people to participate by prioritizing youth policy and fostering their interest in public life through education and communication. Communication barriers should be overcome by using modern technologies, speaking young people's language and promoting access to the democratic process. For young people, particularly in terms of their employment prospects, the future was less certain than it had been for previous generations.

The IPU's appreciation of the need to renew democracy had been demonstrated when it had established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. It was a unique platform where young parliamentarians could discuss global issues. Such opportunities to participate in politics must be used to the full, in order to give young people the confidence to fulfil their ambitions as well as to ensure that their expectations were met. It was time to build a stronger democracy by removing the barriers to youth participation and by enabling young people to contribute to the discussion on issues such as sustainable development, climate change, technology and the fight against inequality and marginalization. Parliaments must give a voice to young people and promote the values of transparency, hope and solidarity. He hoped that young people could become the catalyst for civil and moral development in society, both in their quest for information and justice, and as they began to participate fully in political life and take up positions of responsibility.

Mr. J. FAKHROO (Bahrain) said that young people were the cornerstone of development and progress, due to their dedication to change and hard work, and because of their capacity to learn new concepts and ideas. However, their potentially positive role could become negative if they were not given the attention they deserved, through education services and recreational programmes and activities. Young people's energy must be channelled and guided to create youth leaders who could participate in the decision-making process. Engaging young people in political processes was particularly important. Young people were a power that could be positive and influential, and that could bring about necessary social and political change. However, if not channelled correctly, they could be a negative, even destructive, factor. Every effort must therefore be made to encourage youth participation in consultation processes, to organize youth panels at which young people could discuss their aspirations, and to promote youth engagement in political work from an early age. Such efforts would contribute to the development of young people's political awareness based on practices that respected plurality, rather than promoting conflict. Engagement and the discussion of opinions and issues fostered a sense of belonging. Young people should therefore have the opportunity to participate in democratic processes, as both voters and candidates for election.

Great attention was paid to young people in Bahrain: they were seen as the key to the country's development. Decision-makers recognized the important role young people could play in keeping political processes up to date and in line with changes to modern society. To further promote youth participation, the minimum voting age had been reduced to 20 years old, with a plan to gradually reduce it further. A Ministry of Youth and Sport had been established to take up issues that concerned young people. Parliament was also making efforts to increase its consideration of issues of interest to young people. Committees on youth and sport had been established in both the Shura Council and the Council of Representatives. Projects targeting young people had been included in the Government's action plan for 2016–2018 and the State budget. The Parliament of Bahrain supported all efforts to include young people in political processes and development projects. Young people should have the opportunity to voice their views freely and be heard.

Mr. F. ZON (Indonesia) said that Indonesian society was living proof that Islam, democracy and modernization could flourish together. Since suffering an economic crisis in 1998, Indonesia had experienced a significant political transformation towards a consolidated democracy. It was based on the values of freedom of expression, free and competitive electoral processes and direct parliamentary and presidential elections. Democracy should be home grown: there was no "one size fits all". Indonesia defined its democracy as "Pancasila", a concept rooted in Indonesian culture and values, and based on five principles: belief in one God; justice and civilized humanity; Indonesian unity; democracy; and social justice for all.

The younger generation represented the hope of a nation. Indonesia's youth had played a fundamental part in shaping its history and was considered the backbone of the country. Young people's creativity meant that they had a role to play as agents of change for the future. Modern communication tools, such as social media, were used to highlight and discuss issues, and advocate for change. Young people tended not to participate in politics through traditional methods. However, virtual activism alone was not enough when compared to real participation in democratic

processes. It was particularly worrying to see how sceptical young people tended to be about politics. Parliamentarians must show why politics mattered and engage more young people in democracy.

Indonesia had made considerable efforts to involve young people in democratic processes. For example, a national law had been adopted that set the minimum age for running for parliament at 21 years, for running for mayor or regent at 25 years, and for running for governor at 30 years. Youth engagement was the key to sustaining democracy, but could not be realized when many young people faced violence and armed conflict in their daily lives. Parliamentarians must therefore do their utmost to ensure that the legislation they passed prevented conflict, promoted peace and allowed young people to participate freely and actively in politics. The youth of today were tomorrow's leaders. They must be empowered and involved in politics. No one should be left behind.

Mr. P. HIGIRO (Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – FP-ICGLR) thanked the Member Parliaments of the IPU for having granted observer status to the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. He said that the Forum was made up of 12 parliaments. Its aim was to bring a parliamentary contribution to the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region, which had been signed in Nairobi in 2006. The Great Lakes region was confronted by major challenges, including armed conflicts, political and security crises, economic problems and high levels of poverty. Unemployment and insecurity was a particular challenge for young people. However, some countries in the region were experiencing political stability and economic development. The participation of young people in democratic processes across the region was guaranteed through the various legislative and constitutional frameworks of the members of the Forum. They should serve as an example to other countries and regions of how young people could be given a voice. Providing that voice was particularly important in the many places where young people constituted the majority of the population.

Given the context of those challenges, the Forum wished to establish a strategic partnership with the IPU in order to learn from its experiences and its global network. To make that wish a reality, a high-level mission involving the two organizations had been held in February 2016. The mission's objective had been to assist Burundi in overcoming obstacles to its socio-political stability and to strengthen democracy and reconstruction through dialogue and inclusive decision-making processes. He hoped that the mission would be the first of many joint projects.

Mr. Y. AKTAY (Turkey) said that it was clear that young people were the future. They had ambitions, skills, vision and energy, and must be given the chance to use that to the fullest possible extent. Policy makers must not only listen to young people, but also guarantee them the right to participate in a free and democratic world with full respect for human dignity. Unfortunately, the world was not a safe and secure place. Every day, thousands of young people from developing countries were starting dangerous journeys to seek a better life in the developed world. Recent terrorist attacks in Ankara and Istanbul had taken many young victims. Terrorist organizations were recruiting and enslaving young people. Unless the political sphere was opened to young people, they would become a natural target for terrorist organizations. More must be done to engage young people in democratic processes. If young people were not involved in democracy, they would remain a weak segment of society. If their needs were not addressed, they risked becoming a source of serious social problems.

The Government of Turkey attached considerable importance to promoting youth issues. The minimum age for standing for election had been lowered to 18 years and the average age of Turkish parliamentarians was therefore decreasing. The Ministry of Youth and Sports had been established to support the promotion of youth issues. The IPU had a leading role in promoting young people's representation. Its efforts in that regard were greatly appreciated. Equipping young people with democratic values and encouraging them to engage in with democratic issues would take time and would require a multisectoral approach. International cooperation focused on sharing experiences and best practices on democratic youth engagement would be valuable.

Mr. R. GONZALEZ PATRICIO (Latin American Parliament) said that the Latin American Parliament was an inter-parliamentary body, which aimed to ensure that the cultural and political contribution of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean proudly upheld their heritage. Many challenges persisted, which threatened democracy and human rights. Listening to young people and giving them a voice was not enough to ensure that democracy had a future. The young must be involved in defining policy and bringing about change for the good of all humanity.

Mr. D. DIAS XIMENES (Timor-Leste) said that, although the rejuvenation of democracy had long been a recurring theme in democratic societies, there was much left to do. Despite democracy being a representative system, it often failed to reflect the real social and demographic structure of society. Young people represented a fifth of the global population, yet only two per cent of the world's parliamentarians were below the age of 30 years. Democracy was losing its legitimacy due to weaknesses in bureaucratic systems, which led young people to feel detached from democratic processes.

Timor-Leste had a large young population. They faced high unemployment rates and many worked in unskilled or precarious jobs. They had played an important role in the country's path to self-determination, and many had sacrificed their lives for freedom and independence. The Constitution explicitly recognized the contribution that young people could make in consolidating national unity, and in reconstruction, defence and development. The Constitution also made explicit reference to the protection of young people's rights to education, health and vocational training. However, there were no young people in the Parliament of Timor-Leste.

Despite being in a difficult economic situation, most young people in Timor-Leste had a mobile telephone and Internet access. They belonged to a globalized world and had the same aspirations as young people everywhere. Despite being engaged and at the forefront of social movements, they were apathetic about political processes. Many left home in search of a more lucrative life elsewhere. Others were recruited into extremist groups or gangs. Young people were the future: they had mastery over technology and information, and the potential to increase the resilience of communities. Conditions for their participation in democracy must therefore be fostered through social networking, the creation of parliamentary forums in universities and schools, and setting quotas for youth representation in parliament.

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## Sitting of Tuesday 22 March

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m. with Mr P. Matibini (Zambia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 8 of the agenda

#### **Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century** (A/134/8-DR)

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico), *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the plenary debate had afforded an opportunity to share concerns about the global problem of children without a civil status. Delegations had said that children affected by conflict and displacement should be registered without discrimination so as to guarantee their rights. The drafting committee had been chaired by Mr. O. Siaka (Côte d'Ivoire) and had comprised members of the delegations of Bahrain, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay. The draft resolution reflected the genuine concern and alarm expressed by the global parliamentary community. There were 230 million children in the world without a civil status. Parliamentarians should enact legislation without delay that would ensure the protection of those children.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

Ms. L. DUMONT (France) welcomed the adoption of the resolution and thanked all members of the drafting committee for their efforts to improve the text. The issue of children without a civil status was not well known and required a political solution. Much work was being done by non-governmental organizations and she hoped that the adoption of the resolution would help to highlight the issue among the world's parliaments. Those children must be given an identity.

### Other matters

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *President of the IPU*, said that the IPU and its Member Parliaments had been shocked to hear the news of the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Brussels that morning. On behalf of the IPU Member Parliaments, he issued a Statement utterly condemning the attacks, expressing full solidarity with the people and authorities of Belgium, and calling on all parliamentarians and community leaders to clearly and actively engage with their citizens in order to promote peace, democratic engagement, and respect for human life (see Annex VII).

*A minute's silence was held in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate on Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth**

Mr. H. KALABA (Zambia), *Minister of Foreign Affairs*, said that the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was a milestone in global efforts to promote better parliaments and stronger democracies by giving a voice to young people. Democracy was a means of empowering people to participate freely in the governance of their countries. Inclusive, accountable and democratic governance was critical to ensure that communities were robust enough to withstand change and accommodate divergent views. For democracy to survive and thrive, young people must be well educated on the importance of democratic values, and how those values should be used to improve society. Young people were the leaders of the future; they must be given a platform to excel and make the world a better place.

Zambia remained committed to advancing peace, development and cooperation. Tripartite general elections were due to be held in August 2016. They would be an opportunity to demonstrate Zambia's commitment to upholding and promoting the tenets of democracy. Zambia's political history could be seen as a showcase for the smooth transfer of power; it contained lessons and best practices that others could use as an example. While much progress had been made, more should be done to sustain Zambia's democratic tradition. Every effort was being made to build strong institutions at all levels. Fundamental rights and freedoms were enshrined in the

Constitution and the international instruments to which Zambia was party. Efforts to end discrimination and promote equality were continuing. There was a focus on the need to empower women and vulnerable groups in society.

Zambia recognized the importance of engaging and empowering young people. The national youth policy had been revised to make it more responsive to young people's needs. It now took account of emerging challenges in youth development and the need for young people to contribute to the national development agenda. The policy environment must be conducive to youth participation and involvement. A policy and action plan for youth empowerment and employment had been launched in 2015. In each district, vocational skills training centres had been renovated or upgraded, and new ones had been built, in order to promote and enhance accessibility to vocational life skills for young people.

The United Nations had committed to focusing on the promotion of youth policies in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Zambia subscribed to the African Union's aspiration: development should be driven by people and could be achieved by unleashing the potential of women and young people. The African Union's goals for 2063 included engaging and empowering young people, ensuring full implementation of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, eliminating youth unemployment, and guaranteeing young people full access to education, skills training, technology, health services, jobs, economic opportunities, and recreational and cultural activities.

Continuing instability in many parts of the world posed serious challenges to security and development. The importance of pursuing peace could not be overemphasized, since it was central to successful development. A stable Africa was of strategic importance to his country. Zambia would continue to take a proactive role in regional and international bodies so as to make an effective contribution to development and to the promotion and maintenance of peace, security and stability. Considerable advances had been made in the resolution of some conflicts. It was encouraging to note that some Member States of the African Union remained committed to ensuring that greater attention was paid to harnessing the role of women in all peace processes. This was particularly welcome, since women and children continued to suffer the most during conflicts and they constituted the majority of displaced and refugee populations. Africa was committed to strengthening peace and security efforts. Zambia was ready to cooperate with the IPU to ensure better parliaments and stronger democracies.

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr. J. DA GRAÇA DIOGO (Sao Tome and Principe) said that Sao Tome and Principe upheld the principles of free and open participation in democratic processes. Following legislative elections in October 2014, the number of parliamentarians in his country aged between 18 and 45 years had risen significantly; half of them had been elected for the first time. Schools were encouraged to conduct study visits to parliament, and a youth parliament had been established so that young people could engage in democratic processes. The active participation of all citizens in political life was a precondition for strengthening democracy and the rule of law. Particular efforts were required to encourage women to become involved in the political life of the country. Political parties must take women's participation into account and take measures to increase the number of female candidates for election. Without political stability, freedom of expression, peace and social order, democracy would never be achieved. He thanked all partners for their technical support in efforts to strengthen democracy in Sao Tome and Principe.

Mr. D.E. ETHURO (Kenya) said that giving a voice to young people and rejuvenating democratic processes were the basic ingredients for a stronger democracy. The Constitution guaranteed the participation of young people in politics and society. However, young Kenyans faced many challenges, including unemployment, marginalization, drugs and substance abuse, vulnerability to organized criminal gangs, and recruitment into terrorist organizations. Various programmes had been initiated to empower young people, including free universal primary education, subsidized secondary education, a system of student loans for higher education and various business and enterprise funding schemes.

The inclusion of young people had never been more important, now that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had been adopted. The extent to which the Sustainable Development Goals were achieved would depend largely on the inclusion and mainstreaming of the youth agenda into policy, planning and resource-allocation frameworks. Governments must enact legislation and holistic support mechanisms to nurture the participation and inclusion of young

people in democratic processes. International parliamentary cooperation would add impetus to that work.

Mr. M.M. RUNDIAL (South Sudan) said that South Sudan faced internal challenges and had only achieved independence in 2011. Despite that, the country had adopted a constitution that empowered women by setting a 25 per cent quota on leadership positions and a 35 per cent quota on women's seats in parliament. Young people had been empowered through a system of appointments to the political bureau of the ruling party and to the national legislature. South Sudan was developing at a relatively fast pace, given that it was still a very young State. The legislature was ready to include youth participation in its decision-making and youth representation would be clearly defined in the forthcoming elections. The participation of women in decision-making at all levels of government was also being revised.

Mr. A. RICHE (Haiti) said that the situation in Haiti was serious. Planned elections had not taken place due to an impasse. There was no legitimate government. There were two Prime Ministers, neither of whom had right of signature. The Haitian parliament was unable to function owing to the degree of corruption and fraud in the elections. The provisional President had 120 days to complete the electoral process, but had thus far been unable to establish an electoral council. Quotas for female representation in Parliament were in place, yet no women had been elected because of violence during the elections. The outlook was bleak. He urged the IPU to meet its responsibilities and offer the support that Haiti so desperately needed.

More than 65 per cent of Haiti's population was below 30 years of age. Such a young and vibrant population had huge potential and should provide an opportunity for Haiti to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Unfortunately, 70 per cent of that age group had no education, no training and were unemployed. Haiti needed to get back on track through education. Participatory democracy meant that every individual should be involved. In order to be involved, they needed information. Haiti could only achieve a better future if it established schools and training centres, and supported young people.

In order to meet the grand ambitions of making the world a better place by 2030, greater solidarity, love and sharing were required. The richer elements of society would need to make some sacrifices. A paradigm shift was required in relations between States and a new concept of power was required. To involve young people in decision-making, democratic systems must be truly democratic, so that every individual had the opportunity to live as a human being. If societies were led by cliques and gangs who clung to power, the only young people who would subsequently hold office would be their sons and daughters. Greater efforts were required to ensure that education was available to all as a foundation for achieving democracy.

Mr. F.M. AMORUSO (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean) said that half of the world's population was under the age of 25, and it was therefore essential that they fully participated in political, economic and cultural life. Young people in the twenty-first century had all the necessary opportunities and skills to communicate, take action, network and influence. However, the challenges they faced were unprecedented and included unemployment, inequality, social exclusion and the effects of climate change. As a result, the young had raised their voices and demanded to be heard. Their exclusion had led to serious instability in some countries in the Mediterranean region.

Parliamentarians had a duty to listen to young people, respond to their appeals and include them in decision-making processes. Half of the great flows of migrants crossing the Mediterranean region were young people and children, who were fleeing wars, violence, poverty and violations of their human rights. The Syrian conflict in particular was having a devastating impact on children and could potentially result in the loss of a whole generation. It was therefore imperative to break the cycle of violence and restore stability to the Mediterranean region. Exclusion, the lack of a sense of identity, and a feeling of injustice all led young people to embrace violent ideologies. They must be shown that a better world could be built. There could be no democracy without the active participation of all parts of society.

Ms. P. LOCATELLI (Italy) said that the theme of rejuvenating democracy was particularly timely. Efforts were being made in Italy to reduce the average age of parliamentarians and cabinet ministers. One success was the Prime Minister, who had been elected at the age of 39. Young parliamentarians in Italy had established a caucus, and had begun to organize events and initiatives at the national and European levels. One such initiative involving young parliamentarians from around Europe had aimed to rebuild confidence in European integration. As a result, the Young European Legislators Network had been established and had applied to be officially

recognized by the European Commission as a representative of young European citizens. The network's plan of action included objectives such as promoting a flexible and secure European labour market, tackling youth unemployment, and consolidating the 'Erasmus +' programme and the European Voluntary Service. Efforts were also being made in the Italian Parliament to overcome discrimination against young women. Rejuvenating politics meant empowering young women. That could be achieved by taking measures to guarantee access to services and opportunities in parliament such as crèches, flexible working hours, leadership training and parental leave. Democracy must not just be rejuvenated, but must also be gender balanced.

Mr. V. GAPSYS (Lithuania) said that, with stock phrases uttered such as “youth are the future”, it might seem that a battle between the generations was in progress. In actual fact, different generations had the same goals and should therefore work together to shape the future. Democracy should be a balanced arrangement between all members of society. That balance could not be achieved if women and young people were excluded: no one should be left behind. The minimum age for voting and for standing for parliament should be reduced: those who were old enough to launch start-ups, be drafted into the military, or be eligible to win a Nobel Prize should also be considered old enough to stand for election to parliament. While youth participation in politics was generally increasing, much remained to be done. Innovative ways of encouraging young people to participate should be developed.

Despite their economic achievements, young people struggled with unemployment and were fighting for their place in society. Low wages and shortcomings in education were leading to radicalization. In an increasingly insecure world, young people had an important role to play in countering violent extremism and promoting peace. Feelings of alienation and the root causes of youth radicalization should be tackled by fostering a sense of community and civic spirit, and by providing positive role models for young people to follow. This year had seen the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted and progress had made at the 2015 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It was now time for change in order to prove that those international agreements could make a difference in individual countries.

Mr. O. KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU (Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption) said that the active role of young people in democracy was a pivotal element in the fight against corruption. Dissatisfaction among young people had led to the trials of leaders who had allegedly been involved in corruption and had previously been considered untouchable. There were currently some 3.5 billion people in the world aged between 10 and 35 years. Many of them considered that their potential was curbed by extreme poverty. They felt that corruption was holding back their countries, resulting in fewer opportunities for the younger generation. The inclusion of young people in policy- and decision-making processes was therefore crucial. Unfortunately, many young people were discouraged from participating in politics, owing to their concerns that elections and voting procedures were corrupt. Greater efforts should be made to encourage parliamentarians to act with integrity, to strengthen public participation in decision-making processes without discrimination, and to ensure transparency at all levels of public life.

Parliaments were the cornerstone of democracy, the heart of the rule of law and the centre of policy making. The Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption was working jointly with the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme to issue a handbook on parliamentary oversight of development resources in the context of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level. The handbook would act as a tool for improving parliamentary oversight and increasing engagement with young people and marginalized groups. It would contribute to efforts to monitor progress towards meeting national development priorities.

Ms. J.A. GAKUBA (Rwanda) said that in Rwanda, public affairs were conducted with the expectation that citizens' views would be heard and their complaints acted upon. Young people were a large proportion of the population. Rwanda valued them and tried to bring them together with adults through the “Youth Connect” programme. Young people were not only viewed as future leaders, but also as key actors in and beneficiaries of current society. They represented a strong and lively force, full of aspirations. Their energy and potential should not be undermined by social challenges such as poor education, poverty, inadequate skills, poor health, and lack of education.

Rwanda's youth were considered as a major asset and as key drivers for sustainable development. They were represented in decision-making bodies through the National Youth Council, which operated at the village, sector and district levels. Two seats in the lower house of

Parliament were reserved for young people: a woman aged between 21 and 30 years, and a man aged between 31 and 40 years. Young people also played a key role as volunteer polling staff during elections. Young leaders were considered paramount for nation building and were instrumental in wealth creation. When coupled with skills, innovation, discipline and entrepreneurship, their strength could be an agent of change for the common good.

Mr. I. IRFAN (Afghanistan) condemned the recent terrorist attacks in Brussels. He said that Afghanistan suffered from terrorism daily, and the international community must work as one to overcome such brutality. A struggle was in progress between tradition and modernity. Consideration must therefore be given to the fact that modernization fostered creativity, economic growth and employment. Democracy must move with the times, taking account of cultural and societal developments. Although democracy in Afghanistan was still young, it was dynamic and active. The role of young people was particularly valued. Despite having been ravaged by war and insecurity, Afghanistan was moving towards democratic unity. The utmost effort was being made to involve the younger generation in decision-making processes so as to enhance the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of Afghanistan's institutions. The foundations for youth participation in democratic processes must be laid by making every effort to reduce poverty and unemployment, and to create opportunities for education. That effort would save future generations from the negative influences of terrorist groups that undermined humanitarian values.

Mr. J.H. RI (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that young people in many countries were becoming the first victims of terrorism and extremism because of aggression, interference and intrusion by corrupt ideologies and cultures. In order to prevent such marginalization, young people must be allowed to participate actively in parliament and in society as a whole. Under colonial rule, young people in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had been forcibly drafted into the military and trafficked into sexual slavery. Since independence, they had joined together to promote democracy. Young people were considered one of the three strategic pillars of democracy. Efforts had been made to entrust young people with major socio-political projects and tasks for economic development. Following the 2013 elections, the average age of members of the Supreme People's Assembly had reduced by more than 10 years. Peace must be the priority in order to guarantee security for future generations. A peace agreement should be concluded to bring an end to the hostile policy of the United States of America on the Korean peninsula. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea would continue to develop nuclear deterrents against threats of nuclear war. The pace of that development would be set by the behaviour of the United States of America.

*Mr. V. Gapsys (Lithuania), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr. E.H.D. SYLLA (Guinea) said that low levels of youth involvement in politics could be because young people lacked knowledge about political processes and often associated politics with cheating and deception. Young people were not familiar with politics; a gulf between the political establishment and young people persisted. Communication from political parties was not effective and young people were disinterested in politics. Insufficient attention was paid to explaining the benefits of political processes to young people. Opposing factions continued to exist in society based on ethnicity, religion and family background.

Young people felt that the issues addressed by politicians were far removed from their concerns and that the language of politics was not accessible. A lack of clear answers often meant that young people felt unmotivated, vulnerable and disappointed by politics. Many young university graduates felt the same way because they remained unemployed and without any income. Politicians seemed old and set in their ways, unable to truly understand youth issues. Young people could not identify with the politicians who were supposed to represent them. Half-hearted youth policies that did not come close to meeting young people's needs left them without hope for the future.

Young people's perception of politicians must be changed, through specific actions and realistic programmes. Change was required in order to actively involve young people in politics and give them a place from which to participate, not just a voice. Ensuring employment for young people was the most crucial step towards giving them autonomy and responsibility, and allowing them to be involved in the development of society. Political parties must support and encourage young people's involvement in civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations and raise awareness of their work. Legislation should be enacted to allow young people to stand for election and participate in the work of political parties. The young must be allowed to take up positions of responsibility in institutional bodies. Political debate should be included on school

curricula, and the minimum ages for voting and running for office should be reduced. The IPU could consider establishing a committee for the consideration of such issues in order to further promote youth involvement in political processes.

Ms. C. CHACÓN (Spain) condemned the terrorist attacks that had taken place that morning in Brussels. She said that Spain had recently commemorated the anniversary of terrorist attacks that had cost the lives of 200 people in Madrid in 2004. Spain had lived with a terrorist organization on its territory for more than 40 years. The fight against terrorism could be won on the basis of the rule of law and strong democratic values.

Economic crisis could result in a breakdown in the links between education, employment and democracy. A report issued in Spain in 1984 had stated that, while it seemed that young people did not care about society, the opposite was in fact true. Society did not know how to handle an entire generation that had entered the job market during a time of economic crisis. Politicians talked about young people in order not to have to speak to them. Although young people were silent on political issues, that silence spoke volumes. Although issued in 1984, the report still held true in 2016. More and more young people in Spain felt powerless. The financial crisis meant that the economy had not served the interests of young people. Democracy, on the other hand, had provided opportunities for education and training. That had in turn led to the development of an educated and well-qualified workforce. Their right to participate in politics must be guaranteed under all economic circumstances, since they would be the leaders of the future.

Mr. C.R.M. BAH (Sierra Leone) said that young people did not need the sympathy of older generations; they needed space to participate in society. Political leaders had a responsibility to create a platform for that space. As a young deputy speaker of Parliament, his role clearly demonstrated that Sierra Leone had a high level of commitment to youth participation. Young people should not just be recipients in society; they must be active participants. Sierra Leone's legislation on national youth service and its national youth policy had led to the establishment of a national youth commission. Its objectives included encouraging youth participation in political processes. Steps had been taken to provide education and training, so that young people had the tools to make a meaningful contribution to society. Scholarships and grants were given to those who could not afford higher education. The message that youth participation was important should be taken from the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly and put into practice in all countries.

Mr. V. BUSKO (Belarus) said that young people played a key role in sustainable development and constituted an important strategic resource. However, recent demographic, social and economic trends had rendered young people a particularly vulnerable sector of society, which was particularly susceptible to negative influences. In Belarus, youth policy was part of an integrated and comprehensive legal, financial, administrative and educational system. The aim of the youth policy was to establish the necessary conditions to enable young citizens to make choices about their future, develop their potential and play an active role in society. The rights and freedoms of young people were enshrined in a comprehensive framework of national legislation, with the Constitution at its core.

However, youth policy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century went beyond national borders. Young people considered themselves to be citizens of the world. It was therefore particularly pertinent to be considering a proposal to establish a global partnership to protect the interests of young people, which involved governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. Young people had always sought social change. They must therefore be involved in national and international democratic processes, public administration and political decision-making. Young people did not just want democracy. They also wanted a strong State that could adapt to counter modern threats, meet new challenges and effectively address social issues. Failed States were a threat that was contributing to the radicalization of young people and the spread of extremism. The loss of the traditional family unit was also a threat to society. Belarus remained committed to upholding traditional family values. He hoped that the debate would help parliaments find approaches and identify priority areas for action that would strengthen young people's participation as a contributing factor to sustainable development.

Ms. P. SECK DIENG (Senegal) said that youth participation in democratic processes was a particularly relevant topic. She welcomed the establishment of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians. The Forum had served as an example to national parliaments, many of which had established similar national forums. It was particularly important to encourage young people to participate in politics. They were the drivers of development and change, but currently remained

inactive because of exclusion. The global community was in a period of transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals. Nobody must be left behind in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For example, all young people must be granted their right to education.

In Senegal, considerable attention was paid to youth policy. The President was young, and 50 per cent of ministerial posts were held by young people. A national youth council had been established, along with a youth employment agency and a placement scheme for young graduates. The university system had been reformed to ensure that all students graduating at Masters level were employable. Vocational training faculties for young students had also been established to prepare them for work in agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry and traditional crafts. Legislation on gender parity had resulted in 64 women being elected to parliament out of a total 150 parliamentarians. Young women were becoming increasingly active in the young parliamentarians network. She felt optimistic that future generations would be even better equipped to participate in society through the use of new technologies.

Democracy the world over was currently under threat from transnational organized crime, trafficking in persons, money laundering, and in particular terrorism. The global community must work together to eradicate that menace.

Mr. M. CHARIF (Comoros) said that Comoros would soon be holding presidential elections to launch the second phase of a rotating presidency system that had been set up in 2001. The elections signalled a new chapter in the politics of Comoros, which, in the first 30 years after independence, had been defined by chronic instability. The people and politicians of Comoros were proud to have renewed their democracy and considered that the time of institutional crisis was truly over. However, the country's democracy remained vulnerable and subject to numerous threats. In particular, Comoros faced challenges related to its geographic location and its status as a small island developing country.

Despite economic and financial shortcomings, Comoros had two great resources: its dynamic young people and its potential for tourism. Recent statistics showed that 65 per cent of the population of Comoros was below 35 years of age. It was impossible to consider any policy without taking into account that significant proportion of the population. The Parliament of Comoros therefore intended to launch several initiatives to maximize the involvement of young people in public life. The initiatives included open days to encourage young people to consider different professions and quotas for the representation of young people and women in parliament. The Parliament of Comoros was committed to rejuvenating its country's democracy. It was constantly working to increase young people's participation in its democratic processes.

Mr. D.H. ABDI (Somalia) said that parliamentarians were the only true representatives of the people and must represent every segment of society. Young parliamentarians represented the future and were paving the way to development. The number of young parliamentarians and the number of women parliamentarians must be increased. Parliaments would be stronger if they represented the full diversity of the society that they served. All parliamentarians should fight against extremism. Terrorism could be combatted through joint action. The development of weapons of mass destruction must also be opposed to enable the global community to live in peace and without fear. A stable world with prospects of a positive future could only be built on a foundation of good governance and political maturity.

Mr. H.T. MISBAH (Libya) said that peace and security could only be built on freedom, dignity and democracy for all. Young people had been the driving force behind peaceful change in Libya; they had aspired to democracy and freedom without violence. Unfortunately, international interference made that aspiration impossible to achieve. Those who were striving for stability were being undermined. Young people had played a significant role in the elections in June 2014. Libyan people wanted to see the world unite in support of their efforts to achieve democratic political processes and true reconciliation based on the principles enshrined in the Constitution. Joint efforts were required to defeat terrorist groups. Stability and security in Libya were crucial for the whole region. He thanked the IPU for its choice of topic for the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly general debate. Joint efforts were required to empower young people to be the leaders of the future, and to bring about the change required to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) said that it was a major obligation and a challenge to ensure that the best possible conditions were in place for young people to take over responsibility for society. Young people must be prepared through education, vocational training and employment opportunities. That would give them a sense of responsibility and encourage them to engage in

society. The establishment of youth associations was also a positive step, since it gave young people an experience of involvement in democratic traditions.

Targeted efforts were required to engage young people in the life of democratic institutions. Establishing a voting habit was particularly important. Research had shown that young people were unlikely to ever vote if they did not vote at the first opportunity after which they became eligible. For that reason, the Danish Parliament organized targeted campaigns in the run up to every referendum and election that encouraged young people to vote. A youth parliament met annually in the Danish Parliament to discuss suggestions made by school pupils. That process gave young people an experience of democratic processes.

Parliamentary proceedings needed to take account of young parliamentarians' daily routines. For example, voting procedures in the Danish Parliament had been revised to take account of the fact that many Danish parliamentarians were young parents who had to fetch their children from day care or school by 5 p.m. Voting no longer took place after 4 p.m. to ensure that the maximum number of parliamentarians were present. Taking care to involve young people in political life and institutions was only part of the equation. In addition, the work of those institutions must be organized so that it was possible for young people to participate.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname) said that the terrorist attacks that had taken place that morning in Brussels had once again demonstrated the need to increase peace and security in the world. The Government of Suriname recognized the great potential of Suriname's young people. The national development plan identified as a priority the creation of a youth- and child-friendly society. That meant that children and young people should be able to grow up in a healthy and safe way, develop their talents and actively contribute to their own development and that of Surinamese society as a whole. Youth participation had been structured through youth-led institutions that were working on a variety of issues. The youth parliament, the United Nations Millennium Development Goal youth ambassadors programme and the Caribbean Community youth ambassadors programme had been in place for 10 years. The election procedures for those institutions demonstrated a high level of democratic participation.

Efforts were being made to create the necessary conditions and opportunities to enable young people to participate in society and in decision-making about issues that affected them. Action was also being taken to prepare young people to assume leadership positions. The Surinamese delegation was testament to the success of those efforts. It was made up of young, dynamic leaders, who were all around 35 years of age. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU showed that there was hope with regard to the quality and level of young people's participation in democratic processes. The Forum should serve as an inspiration to those aiming to involve more young people in politics.

Despite the progress made, a considerable global imbalance remained between the number of young voters and the number of young parliamentarians representing them. Young people's disinterest in politics stemmed from a lack of belief in their own capacity and power. Young people should be encouraged to believe more in their capabilities. World leaders and those in power should promote meaningful youth participation and give young people a chance. However, young potential leaders should not wait to be offered an opportunity, but should stand up for their beliefs and take the lead.

Ms. S. KSANTINI (Tunisia) said that Tunisians had amazed the whole world in 2011 with their peaceful revolution. They had toppled a dictator, chosen freedom and social justice and fought against corruption. That revolution had been organized by young people through social media. Fuelled by the anger of the people, they had taken to the streets to end centuries of oppression. However, those who had acceded to power had been from the older generation, and the hopes and aspirations of the young had evaporated, as the transition to democracy had proved unsuccessful, and injustice had reasserted itself. Despite young people's hopes that national reconciliation would be achieved, progress towards justice and democracy had been delayed, and the symbols of the old regime had returned to power.

There was a direct link between the empowerment of women and the participation of young people in public life: women played a pivotal role in raising the younger generation, and could thus sow the seeds for young people to take an interest in social and political issues. There was some evidence that optimism prevailed among some young people in Tunisia, although external problems persisted. Thousands of people were dying and for the most part, hope had been lost. As a result, young people were being dragged towards crime. Concerted efforts were therefore required to restore young people's confidence and to encourage them to participate in political affairs. To that end, a quota had been established for youth enrolment on electoral lists, which was

intended to be a catalyst for youth participation. New electoral laws for municipal and regional councils were being examined. A national dialogue on youth was being planned, and communications about that initiative were to be targeted at young people. In the most recent legislative elections, her campaign had been organized by young party members. It had been highly successful for the campaign and had rejuvenated the party's work more widely. Every effort must be made to keep young people engaged in public life and to prevent them from being dragged into terrorism and illegal migration.

Mr. A.S.K. BAGBIN (Ghana) said that democracy was under threat from extremists, most of whom were using young people as weapons of mass destruction. One way to prevent this wanton mass killing was to include young people in democratic governance and leadership. Great efforts had been made to give a voice to young people in Ghana's decision-making process since the return to multiparty democracy. Young people constituted more than 50 per cent of the population of Ghana. They must not only be given a voice, but must be adequately prepared for the roles they were expected to play in society. A national youth policy was in place. It enabled the Government to engage young people in meaningful partnership in order to develop appropriate interventions and services for youth empowerment and development.

Youth wings of the various political parties existed in most tertiary education institutions, and were active in helping to formulate policies. Student parliaments had been established throughout the country. There was also the National Youth Parliament Consultative Assembly. Its objectives were to train young people in parliamentary practices and procedures, to consolidate democracy and to offer leadership development. Young people had been appointed to national and local parliamentary and executive leadership positions. A youth enterprise programme had also been founded. It enabled young people to find the funding and skills support they needed to start private businesses. Education was crucial if young people were to make meaningful contributions to society and decision-making.

Mr. A.C. DUVAL (Mauritius) said that young people would shape the world's policies and strategies that were required to address contemporary challenges including terrorism, climate change, migration, and increasing economic inequities. With youth came energy, vision, innovation, determination and optimism. Above all, young people believed that the impossible could be made possible. While young people had the potential to achieve great things, the opposite was possible if their energy was not harnessed or if they felt alienated, frustrated, marginalized or excluded. Disappointed and disoriented young people were potentially very powerful weapons for radicalized criminal organizations, insurgents, rebel movements, terrorists and hackers. Exclusion and poverty led to criminality, political violence and civil unrest. Failure to understand and include talented young people in decision-making would thus inevitably lead to political and social instability.

The energy, ideas and commitment of young people had already been instrumental in development policy across Africa. Young people sought solutions to challenging issues that had remained unresolved through mainstream political channels and thus brought positive change to their communities. For example, information communication technologies and mobile communications had been used to solve local problems and to tackle health, humanitarian and other challenges. Every parliamentarian present at the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly should consider whether he or she was doing enough to promote the inclusion of young people in politics. Young people wanted political equality, accountable leaders, and social and economic inclusion and opportunities. They wanted to be taken seriously.

Political leaders should lend their ears to young people, and keep an open mind while doing so. Local, regional and national councils should invite young people to contribute to discussions on issues that affected them. Regional and national youth councils should be formed, and frequent debates organized. Government leaders should include young professionals in their cabinets, think tanks and advisory teams. Social media platforms should be used as a tool for two-way communication. However, all such efforts must be accompanied by a rejuvenation of political parties. They must align their ways of doing politics with young people's expectations and they must do so with transparency, honesty and humility. For young people to relate to politics, they must see themselves represented in it. The world was at a crucial point, where social, political, economic and environmental issues had compelled young people to take a stand and play their part in effecting change. Their voice, influence and contribution were increasing, but the need to include them in political processes was still crucial.

Mr. P. SERUKAMBA (United Republic of Tanzania) said that giving a voice to young people should not be limited to politics. Having the young represented in parliaments and other representative bodies was not an end in itself. It was a means to facilitate development and deepen democracy. Young people must take the lead in all sectors of the economy. The United Republic of Tanzania had the tenth largest youth population in the world, with 84 per cent of the population below 35 years of age. Democracy could not exist if that part of the population was excluded from decision-making. At the most recent general elections, held in October 2015, the proportion of young people in parliament had increased to 25 per cent. Youth turnout in that election had been unprecedented, and was testament to young people's quest for change and development. They had become the drivers of the Tanzanian economy and were poised to dominate all sectors.

The Tanzanian Constitution recognized equality for all, and young people's rights were enshrined in the many international instruments to which the United Republic of Tanzania was party. The United Nations Development Programme had conducted research in the United Republic of Tanzania, and had made a number of recommendations for placing young people at the forefront of development. For example, formal roles could be created for young people to participate in development, to ensure that targets for young people were built into strategies and action plans in all sectors, and to provide policy direction on issues affecting young people, with guidance from young people themselves. The Government had adopted several measures in the context of *Vision 2025*. The programme sought to achieve middle income status by 2025 and to place young people at the forefront of development initiatives. Young people had the ambition, ideas and energy to lead development. That precious resource must be harnessed in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. Y. KOGA (Japan) said that when gaps existed between democratic ideals and reality, people became disillusioned. Institutional challenges persisted and consideration must be given to whether democracy was truly worthy of its name: was there real equality between the rulers and the ruled? Democracy was not a perfect institution; it was time-consuming and required compromise. True democracy was based on self-awareness and equal participation by all. Any institutional obstacles to youth participation in democracy should be removed. Young people needed to earn the right to participate in politics by developing political awareness. Education was crucial in that regard. The level of political participation among young people in Japan was insufficient, and corresponding educational measures were also lacking. The situation could not be changed overnight, but it was hoped that a comprehensive system for youth participation in democratic processes could be established through painstaking and persistent efforts.

Ms. S. SÜTTERLIN-WAACK (Germany) said that Germany and Europe had an ageing population. In principle, Germans received far-reaching rights and responsibilities at the age of 18. In practice, young Germans were making less and less use of their most important democratic right: the right to vote. In 2013, just 60 per cent of young people had turned out to vote, in comparison with 90 per cent in 1970. Many young Germans took democracy for granted. They were in the fortunate position of never having known anything else. However, the fact that fighting for freedom and democracy was worthwhile should not be forgotten.

Education was a critical part of the solution. However, politicians must talk to young people, serve as role models for them, and awaken their interest in democracy. Although schools gave children a basic introduction to democracy, one in every 20 pupils in Germany left school without qualifications. That situation must be changed, since unqualified young people were vulnerable to undemocratic movements in society. The education system must create the foundations to enable young people to participate in political structures. However, society as a whole must also play its part, through families, clubs and associations. Those problems could only be overcome if young people were involved in looking for solutions to the problems that society faced.

Mr. O. YANAR (Finland) said that, during the Assembly, he had met many people from around the world who had congratulated him on being a young parliamentarian. It was indeed rare to become a parliamentarian before reaching the age of 30. Finland had made good progress in that regard, but much more was needed across the world. He was also an immigrant: he had moved to Finland at the age of 14, and had been elected to parliament at the age of 27. Since his election, he had not been made to feel that he was only representing young people. On the contrary, he had been accepted as a politician, whose opinions were equal to those of his colleagues. Young politicians were not the stars of the future; they were the leaders of today. Young people were given many opportunities to participate in society in Finland, and the school system motivated them to express their opinions. There was no age-related hierarchy in Finnish

society, which meant that young people were taken seriously and felt valued. The exclusion of youth from decision-making processes could have serious consequences. Young people had the capacity to address contemporary threats to society, such as climate change and economic inequity. The time had come to move from words to action, to give young people a voice and allow them to make a change.

Ms. S. GERASIMOVICH (Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States – IPA-CIS) said that young people were given particular attention in Belarus. They received free education, scholarships for higher education, free health care, and the chance to participate in various groups that worked within education, culture, sport and tourism institutions. A presidential fund had been set up to provide financial support for talented young people. In order to promote youth participation in democratic processes and public administration, a system of youth parliaments had been established in Belarus. Those parliaments addressed issues such as school and student government and support for children's initiatives. They also made proposals for the participation of young people in small and medium-sized businesses, the creation of additional jobs for teenagers in State-run and private enterprises, the prevention of antisocial behaviour, and the organization of open competitions for talented young people.

Ms. B. JONSDOTTIR (Iceland) said that she had co-created two political parties together with a number of talented young people. Many young voters had expressed an interest in voting for those parties, which were part of an inspiring new system. The parties made policy online, took up issues that were meaningful to young people, and invited the young to create and influence policy. It was important for young people to have full access to Parliament. In a rapidly changing world, where information was available globally at the touch of a button, real-time sharing of information and experiences could take place across borders. Information was being shared, downloaded, remixed and co-created every day. Direct democracy initiatives were being successfully implemented around the world. New types of citizen-engagement platforms had been created and used to form policy, and to facilitate direct democracy. Technology enabling direct access to power was becoming simple enough for citizens to use in order to form opinions and enforce political change. Old ideologies were in a state of transformation. The time had come for fundamental change on all fronts, and young people must be at the heart of future systems. They must be allowed to take on real responsibilities and to innovate. They must also be inspired to be truly engaged. The time had come for young, creative people to lead the way, and for those whose roots were in traditional systems to step back.

Mr. Y. JABOUR (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that a determined policy of aggression was being pursued against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, led by the United States of America. Accusations were being made that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was a place where human rights were violated and where democratic institutions were failing. The policy of aggression was being used to pave the way for foreign intervention in the sovereign affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. An Executive Order of the United States of America had been renewed, extending sanctions against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for a further year. That Order must be overturned. The institutions of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were independent and democratic. They upheld the indivisible human rights of all Venezuelans. Elections had been held regularly over the past 17 years. Most recently, 50 per cent of candidates had been women. The Venezuelan delegation invited the IPU to conduct an investigative mission to assess the processes of the National Assembly.

Ms. M. GUERRA (Mexico) said that Mexico had useful experiences to share in the context of considering how to be inclusive, reduce inequality and ensure prosperity for young people. The war on drugs in Mexico had resulted in the deaths of some 50,000 young people. Now that the war had ended, security for young people had improved greatly. That had been achieved through a roadmap for action and because of considerable political will to give opportunities to young people, particularly those who were most vulnerable and marginalized. Education opportunities were very important, and a system of scholarships and fellowships had been set up to assist young people in accessing education. However, those efforts were not sufficient. To allow young people to have a brighter future, mechanisms must be established for reaching out to them, establishing connections with them and focusing on the causes that interested them.

Mr. O. KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU (Ghana) said that democracy was about giving a voice to citizens. Creating space for people to vote was not the final goal: the key issue was to prepare them to make informed decisions and choices. Education was crucial in that regard. Basic

education in Ghana was provided free of charge, along with free text-books, uniforms, shoes and school meals. More primary schools were being built to move education into formal settings and preschool education had become standard. Ghana was in a good position to begin making secondary education free of charge, including technical and vocational education. Steps were being taken to provide means-tested financial assistance for tertiary education. The minimum age to vote was 18 years, while the minimum age for standing for election was 21. The world must conquer the ignorance that bred estrangement, lack of opportunities, idleness, frustration, anger and lawlessness. Education was the sure way to give a voice – enriched by information – to young people.

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

### *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights*

#### SITTING OF SUNDAY, 20 MARCH

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.30 a.m. with Mr. R. Tau (South Africa), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

(C-I/134/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015)**

*The summary record was adopted.*

#### **(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory note prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-I/134/DR, C-I/134/DR-am and C-I/134/M)

Mr. K. HARI BABU (India), *co-Rapporteur*, introduced the draft resolution (C-I/134/DR) and explanatory memorandum (C-I/134/M). He said that terrorism had been discussed at numerous IPU Assemblies. Over recent years, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism had increased and become more complex. Terrorism constituted one of the most serious threats to international security and was posing a severe threat to civilization, democratic values and the right of all persons to live in freedom and dignity. The Standing Committee had therefore decided to take up the issue of terrorism at the 132<sup>nd</sup> IPU Assembly and had held an expert hearing at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly, during which the majority of delegations had raised concerns about the growth of terrorism, its funding, the need for legislation to address it, and the increasing involvement of women and children in terrorism. The co-Rapporteurs had drawn on those interventions to prepare the draft resolution.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France), *co-Rapporteur*, said that terrorism was affecting all democratic countries across the world. Some 140,000 people had lost their lives because of terrorist activity since 2000. The only way to eradicate terrorism was through international cooperation. The draft resolution called on legislators to take measures to fight terrorism, underscoring the key role that parliaments had to play. Every effort had been made to keep the resolution concise and to focus on measures that were specific and easy to implement. The resolution was cross-cutting, applicable to all and rooted in international law, particularly the conventions of the United Nations system. She hoped that it would be followed up and implemented by all IPU Member Parliaments.

#### **(b) Debate**

Mr. G. TASOU (Cyprus) said that terrorism and ideologically encouraged violence were threatening regional and international peace, and gravely undermining economic and social development. Coordinated efforts were required to confront the threat of terrorism, while ensuring that democratic values and fundamental rights were upheld at all times. The people of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic were the victims of horrific crimes committed by so-called Islamic State. In order to help those victims, the international community must work together in line with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The struggle against extremism must be based on efforts to eliminate its root causes: war, oppression, extreme poverty, injustice, inequality and affronts to human dignity. Parliamentarians had a duty to establish appropriate checks and balances to ensure that individual rights were respected at all times through national legal and regulatory frameworks. Justice was the strongest weapon against terrorism. As lawmakers, parliamentarians had important responsibilities in that regard. The world's parliaments must therefore work together to ensure that justice would prevail.

Mr. B. RAJIĆ (Slovenia) said that terrorism was a global threat to democracy, international security and stability. The key to combating terrorism lay in eliminating the root causes of the spread of radicalization and violent extremism. Slovenia was particularly concerned with tackling security threats in the western Balkans. It had launched a counter-terrorism initiative which focused on cooperation and complementary action, and had become part of the European Union's policies. A radicalization awareness network had been established that brought together experts from academia and the public, private, nongovernmental and civil sectors. Technical assistance had been provided to support the most vulnerable groups fleeing the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. Slovenia had made substantial financial contributions to relief efforts.

A youth agenda had been launched in the western Balkans to offer young people positive alternatives to radicalization. Islamic radicalism should be tackled through education, international exchanges and the engagement of young people in sporting and cultural activities. Joint action at the international level was essential to counter the terrorist activities of Daesh, particularly through legislation and regulation. Efforts must be made to seek solutions to existing conflicts, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic. Steps must also be taken to prevent new conflicts from taking root, by promoting education, diversity and tolerance. Respect for values such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law were crucial, and parliamentarians had an important role to play in that regard.

Mr. A. JALAMDEH (Jordan) said that, despite instability in neighbouring countries, Jordan continued to enjoy peace within a democratic society which included members of all religions. Efforts were being made to reform and strengthen democracy, and ensure that all citizens could elect their representatives freely. Jordan was hosting some 1.5 million refugees who had fled crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. That heavy burden was putting a strain on Jordanian infrastructure. Although some international assistance had been received, more was needed to meet the immense needs of the refugees. The Jordanian authorities and people were doing everything in their power to fight terrorism in all its forms, and welcomed international efforts in that regard. Jordan strongly condemned the Israeli occupation of parts of the Middle East, which was in violation of international humanitarian law and had resulted in the mistreatment of some 15,000 Palestinian citizens, including children.

Ms. Y. HE (China) said that terrorism constituted a threat to international peace and security, which could only be overcome through a concerted, joint effort. To achieve that, the global community must work together under the aegis of the United Nations, through strengthened dialogue and coordination. Counter-terrorism measures should take account of the fact that terrorist organizations had begun to use the Internet for recruitment, finance and organization. Efforts must be made not only to resolve conflicts, but also to address the root causes of violence and extremism. That could be done through education, poverty reduction, by encouraging dialogue and by preventing double standards. Terrorism could not be attributed to one country, society or religion in particular: such generalization only served to exacerbate the problem. The world's parliaments should legislate against terrorism. They should also cooperate by sharing information in order to strengthen counter-terrorism activities and contribute to improved security and stability around the world.

Ms. I.D. NEUPANE (Nepal) said that terrorism constituted a serious threat to democracy and human security that reached far beyond the borders of individual countries. Over recent years, terrorism had caused large-scale death and destruction across the world. Strong international cooperation and robust legal and institutional frameworks were needed in order to counter terrorism at the national and international levels, particularly by cutting off sources of terrorist financing and recruitment. With that in mind, Nepal had ratified several international and regional counter-terrorism instruments. National legislation had been passed to prevent money laundering and organized crime, and to criminalize the financing of terrorist activities. Despite the efforts made at national and international levels, terrorism was on the rise. It was destabilizing societies, undermining democratic values and threatening world peace. Cooperation must therefore be strengthened. Member Parliaments should join hands to fight terrorism and ensure that democracy and human rights could flourish.

Mr. T. BURGOS (Spain) said that his delegation had proposed amendments to the draft resolution to draw attention to the victims of terrorism, and to ensure that they received due recognition, remembrance and reparation. Laws should be drafted to ensure that compensation was granted to survivors of terrorist attacks by setting up an international fund. Parliaments should

ensure that all victims were remembered and that their dignity was maintained at all times. His delegation had also proposed an amendment about the need to prevent terrorist organizations from recruiting through prisons. Terrorism must be delegitimized. No reason could justify the killing of innocent people. The heroes in terrorism were the victims, not those who killed them.

Mr. M. AL MUHRIZI (United Arab Emirates) said that the impact of terrorism on democracy was a particularly pertinent subject, given the increasing spread of terrorism around the world. The number of victims of terrorism was increasing, and terrorist groups were recruiting through the most advanced technologies. The absence of a clear definition of terrorism must be rectified as a matter of urgency. It led to a lack of unity that made forming a coherent international response particularly difficult. Terrorism was complex: it involved people of many nationalities; it combined with other forms of transnational organized crime; and it often took place outside the country where its perpetrators and their plans originated. A coordinated, international response was therefore critical.

The use of the Internet and electronic resources for recruiting and preparing terrorist activities posed a substantial challenge. As yet, there was no international law in place to govern the responsibilities of Internet users. Terrorism must be fought, but the fight should not be used as a reason to attack a particular group of people or religion. Terrorism could only be truly overcome by promoting the values of tolerance and moderation, and through international dialogue. To that end, parliamentarians should prepare the necessary laws to ensure that places of worship and religious symbols were protected. The United Arab Emirates had ratified international conventions relevant to the prevention of international terrorism. It had also promulgated domestic legislation on the prevention of money laundering and on counter-terrorism methods.

Mr. J. VOS (South Africa) said that terrorist attacks threatened tourism, the largest industry in the world and the only economic sector in which developing countries continuously ran a trade surplus. Failure to protect the tourist industry would have dire consequences for the global economy, and for developing countries in particular, with effects that could lead to unemployment, homelessness, crime, marginalization and other economic and social ills. South Africa actively participated in international initiatives to combat terrorism-related crime, such as drug and arms trafficking, and participated in information exchanges, including through INTERPOL. Comprehensive domestic legislation was in place, incorporating the provisions of all relevant United Nations conventions. That provided a sound legal basis for combating terrorism, while always protecting and maintaining fundamental rights and freedoms for all. His delegation supported the proposed resolution and advocated international cooperation with the United Nations as the central coordinator of global counter-terrorism efforts. States must pool their resources in fighting terrorism throughout the world and the multilateral system should be strengthened to support that.

Mr. K. SENOUCI (World Health Organization - WHO) underscored the importance of considering health in the prevention of terrorism. Victims of terrorism needed care in the immediate, medium and long term. Health should also be considered in tackling the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, inequality and lack of education. Health inequalities could cause a sense of injustice, which should not be ignored and should be taken into account in all strategies that addressed the causes of terrorism. Many studies had shown a high prevalence of mental health issues among individuals committing criminal and terrorist activities. Parliamentarians should therefore include mental health policies in all strategies to prevent and fight terrorism, including the early diagnosis of mental health issues among young people and the provision of accessible mental health care as part of universal health coverage.

Mr. A. HAMEDNACA (Sweden) said that the best tools to prevent international terrorism and radicalism were the values of democracy, human rights and equality. Those values could only be realized through political settlements based on reconciliation and inclusiveness. The Swedish delegation welcomed the draft resolution's call for civic democracy education and recalled commitment of all developed countries to contribute 0.7 per cent of GDP to official development assistance. Words must be accompanied by firm action.

It was particularly worrying to see such a dramatic increase in foreign fighters operating in terrorist groups, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. United Nations Security Council resolution 2178 was key to counteracting that trend, and parliamentarians had a crucial role to play in supporting the resolution's implementation. The flow of young people travelling to fight for terrorist organizations must be stemmed. Such people were doing tremendous damage to vulnerable civilians in the countries to which they travelled. They were also lending their youth and innocence to destructive violence, which would scar them for life as perpetrators. He said that,

before moving to Sweden and becoming a Member of Parliament, he had spent his youth as a child soldier in Eritrea. He recalled living through the horrors of war and violence as a child and said that the importance of preventing terrorism could not be overemphasized. That goal could only be achieved through promoting human development and by giving young people the chance to live a dignified existence.

Ms. Y. KAMIKAWA (Japan) said that no reason whatsoever could justify recourse to terrorism. It was a serious challenge to democracy, which must not be allowed to prevail. Terrorism was caused by a sense of disparity, which must be overcome by concerted efforts at national and international level to establish the social infrastructures required to stabilize society. Social development was particularly important: it could be achieved through the use of official development assistance and technical support to developing countries in areas such as job training, immigration control and humanitarian aid. The rule of law must be well established in order to achieve stability, free economic activity and social development. Japan therefore offered aid for law development. The aim was not to impose the Japanese legal system on other countries but rather to engage in dialogue and to assess the laws and systems that would best match with specific country situations. Lastly, education was crucial to building social infrastructure. Giving young people an education opened up job opportunities and led to social and economic development that reduced the sense of disparity. Reducing disparity would engender human security, allowing people to live in peace and dignity.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the threat of terrorism continued to loom large over all societies and much remained to be done to uproot it. The Islamic Republic of Iran had long been a victim of terrorism in various forms. It had therefore sponsored a resolution on a world against violence and violent extremism. The resolution strove to promote a comprehensive and collective plan to counter terrorism and advance respectful dialogue. It had been adopted by consensus by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015. State terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran continued to endanger peace, security and basic human rights. Scientific and technological developments were targeted and industrial infrastructure threatened. Civilian populations were being attacked, particularly women and children sheltered in recognized places that were protected under international humanitarian law. Double standards and selectivity continued to prevail in global efforts to counter terrorism. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle for self-determination among peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation. That should be taken into account when deliberating an internationally recognized definition of terrorism.

Ms. J. DURRIEU (France) said that her delegation agreed that terrorism could only be solved through international cooperation. Long-term measures were of course required. However, immediate prevention measures were also crucial to intercept terrorist activity at the planning stage. For long-term prevention, the root causes of terrorism must be addressed. Data on migration was particularly important. The European Union should take measures in that regard. The financing of terrorist organizations must be stopped. The so-called Islamic State was acquiring millions of dollars from oil and gas. That flow of funding must be stemmed. She welcomed the draft resolution and commended the work done by the co-Rapporteurs to draw attention to the measures that must be taken.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that although the world was seeking peace, conflicts were sweeping through the Middle East, Africa and Asia. He commended the draft resolution, which was comprehensive. His delegation wished to add to the text in order to end the distortion of ideas and personal beliefs. Terrorist groups misrepresented belief systems and instilled hate among vast swathes of the population, particularly young people. Steps must be taken to end tension between States, since terrorists exploited those tensions and capitalized on conflicts to serve terrorist objectives. The utmost effort must be made to protect women and young people. They were the most vulnerable groups in society and were being persuaded or coerced into involvement in terrorist activities. They were often the primary victims of violence and their plight should therefore be addressed in the draft resolution.

Mr. Z. BIN SAPARI (Singapore) said that his delegation condemned all acts of terrorism. Terrorist acts were committed by extremists. They sought to divide communities by striking fear into innocent people and did not reflect the beliefs of any particular religion. The global community should unite in condemning those acts. Countries must adopt a holistic approach to countering

terrorism, including: taking firm security action to neutralize immediate security threats posed by terrorists; conducting upstream activities to counter the violent extremist ideas that underpin terrorism; and taking measures to counter the financing of terrorist groups and individuals. International cooperation was required to stop individuals who wanted to fight alongside terrorist groups from traveling to conflict zones. A combination of initiatives was required to strengthen physical infrastructure and enhance collaboration. That would help to manage risks and mitigate the impact of potential attacks. Community engagement and outreach programmes were needed to foster trust between the various communities. What was common to a society should be focused on, rather than its differences. Although each country must contextualize its approach to counter-terrorism as a transnational threat, no single country could address terrorism alone. Singapore therefore supported regional and international initiatives to combat terrorism and particularly commended the text of the draft resolution.

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India) said that terrorism was currently the greatest threat to civilized society. No country should be under the illusion that it was immune from that threat. Terrorist groups bolstered each other and supplied each other with recruits. States that provided income and material resources to terrorist groups must be sanctioned urgently. No cause could ever justify recourse to terrorism. Any part of the draft resolution that could be construed as justifying terrorism under certain circumstances should be deleted. Terrorist groups would use any excuse to invent a cause for terrorism, since their aim was to radicalize people. The draft resolution should mention the obligation to either prosecute or extradite terrorists. The draft made several references to “foreign terrorist fighters”. Those references should be replaced by the word “terrorist”: terrorism was terrorism, irrespective of the provenance of the perpetrator.

Ms. Y. MEFTALI (Algeria) said that Algeria had been a victim of terrorism in the 1990s. That had undermined the whole nation, destroying agriculture, the economy, schools and homes. The international community had remained silent, believing terrorism to be a local phenomenon. Time had shown that that was not the case. Terrorism was an international threat that was spreading rapidly. Countries must work hand in hand to prevent terrorism. The international community should work together to face terrorism with a united approach, to halt the undermining of democracy and put an end to the causes of extremism. Algeria’s experience could be taken as an example to follow.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) said no country was immune from terrorism. There should be no sympathy for those who perpetrated serious crimes against individuals and States in acts of indiscriminate and unacceptable slaughter. Terrorism destabilized communities and diverted resources that could be used to tackle poverty, epidemics and famine. Terrorism went against everything that the IPU stood for, and was not based on any religion. There was no need for any democracy to be apologetic about its efforts to wipe out terrorist activity. State-sponsored terrorism was equally as unacceptable as terrorism that promoted a political or religious ideology. The task before the international community was great. A political solution was needed, backed up where necessary by military and intelligence action. No community was safe or could live in peace if terrorism was condoned or supported by any country. The role of the International Criminal Court must be strengthened in dealing with those accused of committing crimes against humanity. The IPU should devise a mechanism for sharing information to combat terrorism. All counter-terrorism efforts should take into account that some of the ideologies at the root of terrorist activity would take a long time to be undone.

Ms. S. KSANTINI (Tunisia) expressed her Parliament’s condolences to the authorities and people of Turkey in light of the recent terrorist attacks in Ankara and Istanbul. For the past three years, terrorism had been attacking and undermining Tunisia’s democratic transition and its culture. As terrorism was transnational, no country could be categorized as an “exporter” of terrorism. Measures must be taken to enhance poverty eradication and to strengthen economic development, particularly in rural areas. Terrorist groups were exploiting poverty to recruit young people. Young people therefore needed opportunities for employment and self-development. International cooperation and the sharing of intelligence and information were crucial. The root causes of terrorism must be addressed. Where terrorist attacks had occurred, assessments must be conducted into what had stopped counter-terrorism effort from being successful. That would facilitate the prevention of further attacks in future. Judicial oversight of the armed forces was essential and the tenets of democracy and human rights must be upheld at all times.

Mr. N. CHIANG CHIN (Malaysia) said that Malaysia condemned all forms of terrorism. International action should be taken, in line with the Charter of the United Nations and international law. A multifaceted approach was required to combat terrorism, by addressing its root causes and underlying contributory factors, including funding and weapons supply. Hearts and minds must be won. The actions of militant groups such as Daesh had resulted in the loss of many innocent lives, injury to countless blameless civilians, and damage to historical sites and public infrastructure. Malaysia was committed to overcoming terrorism. To that end, it was working to strengthen its legislative framework, with a particular focus on prevention. Measures to counter terrorism should not infringe the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. The United Nations was the best forum to lead and coordinate action against terrorism. The Malaysian authorities pledged their support to the various resolutions of the United Nations Security Council that addressed counter-terrorism. Malaysia called on all other countries to do likewise, and to censure and reject extremism.

Mr. S.E. KARRAR (Sudan) said that his delegation supported all international efforts to fight terrorism in whatever form it took. The Sudanese Parliament was therefore enacting legislation on the issue. Steps were being taken to train lawyers and investigators in order to bring terrorists to justice. Sudan had tabled a draft resolution on trafficking in persons, which was to be considered under the emergency item on the agenda of the Assembly. Trafficking in persons constituted a grave crime that threatened the most vulnerable sectors of society, particularly women and children. Such exploitation must be prohibited. Forced labour, sexual exploitation or any other form of slavery must not be tolerated. Trafficking was a crime of terrorism that attacked the most vulnerable.

Mr. A. ATICI (Turkey) said that terrorism constituted a threat to democracy and human lives. It was particularly dangerous when directed against a certain race or religious group. Turkey was in a very vulnerable location with regard to the threat of terrorism. All terrorist attacks had international repercussions. As a result, international cooperation was particularly important, including through dialogue to foster mutual respect and understanding, and especially through organizations such as the IPU. Terrorism belonged to no nation and no religion. It had no limits and everyone was at risk. Turkey's experience in addressing terrorism had led to the following conclusions: terrorism was international and should be treated as such; if terrorism had political extensions then the solution must be sought through politics, rather than violence; and terrorism could not be affiliated to a particular religion or race. He drew attention to the motto of Turkey's founder, Atatürk: "peace at home, peace in the world".

Mr. A. BOUVIER (International Committee of the Red Cross) said that his delegation would speak on several provisions of the draft resolution during the forthcoming drafting meeting. The provisions of the resolution should not infringe on the activities of impartial international organizations.

Mr. M.A. ELORABI (Egypt) expressed his delegation's support for all initiatives in the fight against terrorism. Egypt was taking active counter-terrorism measures. It was participating in the Muslim anti-terrorism coalition formed by Saudi Arabia. Unfortunately, the coalition had not yet garnered sufficient support from other countries. The fight against terrorism must focus on bringing an end to the financing of terrorist organizations and their activities, and to halting the recruitment of new members of terrorist groups. Terrorism did not distinguish between religions or national borders. Terrorism attacked the most fundamental of all human rights – the right to life. He hoped that the Standing Committee would adopt the resolution as an echo of the voice of all those who had suffered and continued to suffer as a result of terrorism.

Mr. A. AL AHMAD (Palestine) said that terrorism belonged to no country or religion, and manifested itself in many different ways. Arriving at a universally acknowledged definition of terrorism was a particularly difficult challenge, but a necessary step in strengthening the fight against terrorism. Terrorism could only ever be truly dismantled if it was clearly defined and its causes fully understood. The causes of terrorism included repressive politics, poverty, human rights violations, injustice, hegemony and occupation, all of which fuelled terrorism and allowed it to thrive. The threat of terrorism must be faced head on. The international community must question how terrorist organizations such as Daesh had become so powerful. How had Daesh gained access to oil and who was buying that oil from Daesh? How were its members moving between

countries? Those sorts of questions must be answered honestly if a solution was to be found. Palestine had a tradition of more than 60 years fighting terrorism as a result of the application of double standards. No country should ever be considered above international law. An end should be brought to the destructive movements that fostered destructive behaviour.

Ms. N. LESUUDA (Kenya) said that no country was safe from terrorism. The international community must therefore come together to minimize and ultimately eradicate terrorism, particularly by sharing information and intelligence. Terrorism was having a major economic impact, leaving tourist industries decimated. Particular attention must therefore be paid to finding out which countries were funding terrorist organizations and preventing them from doing so. Until the root causes of terrorism and the channels that were fuelling it were stopped, no one in the world could be safe.

Mr. H. ALHAMDAN (Kuwait) said that terrorism and its ramifications were spreading and affecting people's daily lives across the world. Given its transnational nature, no country or individual could consider themselves safe from the threat of terrorism. Consideration must therefore be given to the ways in which terrorist groups were benefiting from society, particularly through their use of cutting edge technology to recruit new members and spread their activities around the world. Terrorism attacked institutions and society and was a threat to the rights of all individuals. It respected no values, religion or State. Terrorist groups were expanding, and the number of terrorist acts was rising sharply. The material damage being caused was absorbing enormous amounts of finance that could otherwise be used for the development of society. It was essential that national authorities and parliaments cooperated to bring an end to the funding of terrorism. The Parliament of Kuwait had passed counter-terrorism legislation and was monitoring the use of the Internet, to assess the accessibility of terrorist groups. The fight against terrorism must be intensified, while ensuring that the civil rights of all people were respected at all times.

Mr. M. OMAR DALHA (Arab Parliament) said that terrorism was the most serious issue facing the global community. If left uncontained, it could have unexpected and devastating consequences. The populations of Arab-speaking nations had suffered the effects of terrorism more than others. The Arab Parliament therefore called on the international community to work together, along with partners such as the IPU, to investigate who was financing terrorism. All parliaments had a duty to help the victims of terrorism, in particular the elderly, women, children and other vulnerable citizens around the world.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that terrorism was not only a threat to democracy and individual rights, but also to the development, peace and stability of the world. Ethiopia was in a vulnerable location in the Horn of Africa and had been a victim of terrorism. Efforts were being made to take the necessary legal measures to counter terrorism, and to improve security in the Horn of Africa. The Ethiopian authorities vowed to act in cooperation with regional and international bodies to that end.

Mr. R. MACHINGURA (Zimbabwe) said that terrorism was a critical international emergency. A coordinated international response was needed. It should transcend the misperception that terrorism was a national concern, only for countries in which attacks had taken place. The major causes of terrorism must be identified and addressed through a comprehensive global action plan that could be applied in all countries. Such a framework must emphasize the importance of human development and the need to act in order to eradicate poverty and illiteracy. They were the incubators of the social and economic grievances that terrorist groups used as an excuse for their activities. Global economic inequities must be redressed in favour of poor nations. The institutional challenges of governance must be overcome to ensure peace and security. Terrorism tended to thrive in weak and failed States, where the absence of central authority attracted "entrepreneurs of insecurity". Military cooperation and intelligence sharing at international and regional levels were pertinent strategies in the fight against terrorism. Military resources and intelligence should be pooled. Cooperation was required to train troops in counter-terrorism. Care must be taken to ensure that the fight against terrorism did not lead to repression through the limitation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Mr. C.S. SIPAPELA (Namibia) said that terrorism was spreading quickly and that no country was exempt from its threat. A multifaceted approach was required to counter terrorism that would address its root causes and stem the supply of weapons, ammunition, vehicles and fuel. It was high time that words were translated into action, to make the world a safer place for future generations.

Mr. L. KAZABU (Zambia) said that terrorism knew no boundaries and no colour. Zambia stood with the world in the fight against terrorism. His country was taking measures to ensure that terrorists did not find a safe haven on Zambian territory. Legislation had been enacted in that regard. A national counter-terrorism centre had been set up to make policy and provide an administrative framework for antiterrorism measures. Measures were also being taken on financial intelligence, the prohibition of money laundering and disclosure of information about it, as well as on the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of corruption. Zambia was also party to numerous relevant international instruments, which had been incorporated into national law.

Mr. M.S. BENMASSOUD (Morocco) said that the fight against terrorism should be a top priority for all international organizations. An internationally accepted definition of terrorism was required to ensure that the fight was coherent. Such a definition would help to identify terrorist organizations and individuals, and to ensure that their funding sources were cut and the root causes of extremism eradicated.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all members of the Standing Committee for their comments. There were more than 100 proposed definitions of terrorism in circulation and no consensus had been reached so far. The co-Rapporteurs had therefore felt it most important to focus the draft resolution on actions of a terrorist nature that could be punished. Full respect for human rights was of course crucial. Parliaments had a key monitoring role to ensure that a balance was struck in that regard when fighting terrorism. The co-Rapporteurs had tried to underscore three issues in the draft resolution: the need to prevent terrorism by fighting against the early stages of radicalization; the need to punish terrorist acts that were all inadmissible and could not be justified under any circumstances; and the need to stem the flow of funding and redress the social inequalities that fuelled terrorism.

Mr. K. HARI BABU (India), *co-Rapporteur*, thanked all those who had commented on the draft resolution and called for parliamentary action in the fight against terrorism. He believed the draft resolution would be adopted with some small amendments.

The PRESIDENT announced that the Standing Committee would continue its work on drafting the resolution in plenary, in line with Rule 16 of the Rules of the Standing Committee.

*The sitting rose at 11.50 a.m.*

## SITTING OF TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m. with Mr. R. Tau (South Africa), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### (c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary

(C-1/134/DR)

The PRESIDENT thanked the Standing Committee for its focus and the spirit of compromise in which it had worked to finalize the draft resolution. He said that some editorial amendments were needed to bring it fully into line with the Committee's discussions.

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), supported by the representatives of India, Namibia and the United Arab Emirates, welcomed the tremendous work that had been done to achieve a consolidated draft, and proposed that the resolution should be adopted by acclamation.

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland), supported by the representatives of Guinea, Malawi and Zambia, said he could not agree to adopt the draft by acclamation, since the Standing Committee should be able to assess which paragraphs required editorial amendment. He proposed that the Standing Committee consider the document paragraph by paragraph.

*It was so decided.*

## Preamble

*The preamble was adopted, subject to minor editorial amendments in paragraphs 1, 5 and 7.*

## Operative part

*The operative part was adopted, subject to editorial amendments in paragraphs 3, 12 and 27. The Committee also decided to amend the title of the resolution, by replacing “individual rights” with “human rights”.*

Mr. R.K SINGH (India) said that he wished to record a reservation to the reference to the right to a private life in operative paragraph 10. The right to privacy should not be an absolute right, since that would preclude monitoring the movements and activities of terrorists.

*The whole resolution was adopted as amended taking note of the reservation expressed by the delegation of India, which would be included in the summary record and reflected in the Rapporteur’s presentation to the Assembly.*

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany) said that she welcomed the adoption of the resolution, which was now needed more than ever. She was shocked at the appalling terrorist attacks that had taken place in Brussels that morning. She suggested that a minute’s silence should be held as an expression of respect for the victims of those attacks, and for all victims of terrorist activity.

*A minute’s silence was held in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in Brussels.*

## **Preparations for future Assemblies**

### **(a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee**

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee was required to select a subject item for its next resolution. The Bureau had received proposals from India, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. Pursuant to the Rules of the Standing Committee, each proposer had been invited to address the Bureau. The Bureau had heard delegates from Switzerland and the Russian Federation. India had withdrawn its proposal. Members had been unanimously interested in the proposal of the Russian Federation. In line with its Rule 20, the Bureau had decided to propose that a revised version of that proposal be selected as the title of the next resolution to be considered by the Committee: *The role of parliaments in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.*

Mr. J. ALHAI (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation had not attended the Bureau meeting owing to a miscommunication.

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had nevertheless considered the proposal of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. F. LOMBARDI (Switzerland) expressed concern that a clear definition of “interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States” was required.

The delegate of GUINEA said that he agreed. With regard to interference certain situations that could warrant contingencies should be considered.

Mr. R.K SINGH (India) said that his delegation supported the proposed title and that interference could be defined in the provisions of the resolution.

Ms. C. GUITTET (France) suggested that the topic be considered as a follow-up to the resolution that the Standing Committee had adopted at the 128<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly on enforcing the responsibility to protect civilian lives.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that the proposed title should be considered independently of the responsibility to protect civilian lives.

*In line with rule 19 of the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Committee voted by 34 votes to 2 to accept the proposal by the Russian Federation, as amended by the Bureau: The role of parliaments in the prevention of external interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.*

**(b) Proposals for the choice of two co-Rapporteurs**

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had considered the candidatures of Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. S. Koutra-Koukouma (Cyprus) to serve as co-Rapporteurs.

*The Standing Committee decided to approve those candidatures and forward them to the Assembly.*

Mr. J. ALHAI (United Arab Emirates) said he wished to be considered for the position of co-Rapporteur.

**(c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda**

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had proposed that an expert hearing be organized at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva in October 2016 on the subject item chosen for the Standing Committee's next resolution. A panel discussion could be organized for the remaining three hours of meeting time. Proposals for a discussion topic should be sent to the Bureau. The proposals of Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates for the subject of the Standing Committee's next resolution warranted discussion. He proposed that a means be found to include a debate on one or both issues on the agenda of the Standing Committee's future meetings. The titles of the proposals were: *Promoting democratic accountability of the private security sector* (Switzerland), and *Enhancing the capacity of national parliaments to spread a culture of peace and tolerance within national communities and the role of education in achieving world peace and acceptance of others* (the United Arab Emirates).

*It was so decided.*

**Elections**

The PRESIDENT announced that the candidatures received for nominations to the Bureau were: Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda) for the African Group; Mr. K. Albakkar (Jordan) for the Arab Group, and Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean. The remaining Bureau members were eligible for re-election.

*The Committee decided to elect those candidates, and re-elect all eligible Bureau members.*

The PRESIDENT announced that the Standing Committee was required to elect a President and Vice-President of the Committee. At a meeting of the geopolitical groups, it had been decided to rotate the presidencies of the standing committees. In line with that decision, the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean would hold the presidency of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security.

*The Standing Committee approved the Bureau's proposal that Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) be elected President and that Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) be elected Vice-President.*

**(d) Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr. Pacheco (Portugal), be appointed Rapporteur to the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

*The Standing Committee approved the appointment of Mr. Pacheco (Portugal), as Rapporteur to the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly.*

Ms. C. ROTH (Germany), speaking on behalf of the whole Standing Committee and supported by the representatives of Cuba, France, Guinea, India, Jordan, Portugal and South Africa, thanked the President for his wise and good-natured guidance throughout his tenure. Complex and sensitive issues had been addressed, and the President's insight had been the key to bringing the Standing Committee's discussions to fruitful conclusions.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Standing Committee for its good will and support during his term of office.

*The sitting rose at 10.50 a.m.*

## Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

### *Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity*

**SITTING OF SUNDAY, 20 MARCH**

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. O. Hav (Denmark), Vice-President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

(C-II/134/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015)**

The summary record of the last session was approved.

*Ms. N. Marino (Australia), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.*

#### **(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory note prepared by the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-II/134/DR, C-II/134/DR-am and C-II/134/M)

The CHAIR invited the co-Rapporteurs to present the draft resolution *Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity*.

Mr. H. KOUSKOUS (Morocco), co-Rapporteur, said that the events known as the Arab Spring had destroyed not only human lives but also cultural property in the Arab region. The Moroccan parliamentary group had therefore requested that the IPU take up the issue of cultural heritage. With Belgium's support, agreement had then been reached to place the issue on the agenda of the Committee's agenda. The co-Rapporteurs had taken previous work and discussions on the issue into account when drafting the resolution. It recognized that the threats to cultural heritage were multifaceted; among others, they included armed conflict, terrorism and climate change. The draft resolution aimed to encourage parliamentarians to engage in good legislative and budgetary practices to afford greater protection to tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Particular emphasis was put on opening the door to youth participation and raising awareness about the importance of protecting cultural heritage by including issues to do with cultural heritage in school curricula. Parliaments had an important role to play in monitoring government activities in that regard, and in allocating sufficient budgetary resources to ensure the full protection of cultural heritage.

Mr. A. DESTEXHE (Belgium) said that several international experts had been involved in drafting the resolution, and significant input had been received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Nine elements – all of equal gravity and priority – had been identified as needing consideration in the preservation of cultural heritage: armed conflict and terrorism; looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism; mass tourism; population growth and urbanization; enhancing awareness; conservation of heritage; globalization; climate change and pollution; and nominations for the world heritage list. Preambular and operative paragraphs had been prepared to address each of those elements, and every effort had been made to present a balanced text. That notwithstanding, some 171 proposed amendments to the draft had been received for the Standing Committee's consideration. When considering those amendments, care must be taken to work in a spirit of compromise, and to make every effort to maintain clarity and consistency in the text.

The CHAIR said that the draft resolution had been distributed among Member Parliaments of the IPU on 15 January 2015, and 16 Members had submitted amendments before the statutory deadline.

### **(b) Debate**

Mrs. C. ARAGÓN (Spain) said that her delegation had submitted proposed amendments about: the need to enhance awareness-raising and education at all levels, starting from early childhood; the importance of preserving cultural heritage; the need to train specialists and technical experts in the preservation, restoration and conservation of items that were part of national cultural heritage; and the importance of promoting international exchanges of information and sharing knowledge. The destruction of cultural heritage was tantamount to the destruction of national identity, and every effort must therefore be made to preserve such heritage.

Mr. P.I. PUNIA (India) said that cultural heritage was a source of social memory – a legacy of physical artefacts and intangible attributes of a group or society – that was inherited from past generations and which evolved over time. Each nation was unique in its culture. In recent years, instances of the deliberate destruction of tangible cultural heritage had begun to increase; that constituted an affront to civilized existence. Any such act should be strongly condemned. India had 32 UNESCO World Heritage Sites on its territory. Under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, the Indian authorities were doing their utmost to undertake conservation and preservation work on a regular basis, and to share their knowhow with other countries, such as Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Measures should be put in place that could be applied worldwide to preserve cultural heritage. Such measures should include establishing a pool of experts in heritage management and protection in conflict zones in order to help protect vulnerable sites against wilful destruction.

Ms. A. POTOČNIK (Slovenia) said that cultural heritage represented a link between ancestors and successors, and its protection was an issue that had long been ignored. Slovenia had transposed international law on cultural heritage to which it was party into domestic legislation, particularly into its Constitution and the Cultural Heritage Protection Act. The preservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use constituted an essential contribution to human development and quality of life. They should be addressed through an integrated, broad-based approach, rather than simply through the physical protection of a particular building or museum. Parliamentarians must ensure that the necessary legislative framework was in place to protect national heritage. The resolution currently before the Standing Committee would provide useful guidance in that regard.

Mr. D. DJAKOVIĆ (UNESCO) thanked the Standing Committee for taking up the issue, and said that UNESCO had worked with the co-Rapporteurs to prepare the draft resolution. The draft came before the Standing Committee at a time when cultural heritage had been recognized as a driver and enabler for meeting the cultural and social targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The fact that the current discussion was taking place in Zambia was also significant: the African Union's Agenda 2063 called for an Africa with a strong identity and cultural heritage. UNESCO conventions had contributed significantly to national legislation to protect cultural heritage, through the transposition of those conventions into domestic law. In that regard, parliaments had a key role to play in ratifying international legal instruments and ensuring that they were effectively transposed. UNESCO therefore fully supported the work of the IPU to promote the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Mrs. B. SAMPATSIRI (Thailand) said that arts, cultures and religions were valuable treasures for all mankind. They defined societies, made them complete, and provided a source of inspiration and hope for future generations. Young people should be empowered to freely express their appreciation for their cultural heritage and pass it on to future generations. IPU Member Parliaments should establish parliamentary committees for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage, to ensure that sufficient attention and budgetary support were given to the preservation and promotion of historical and cultural heritage. Particular attention should be paid to the conservation of historical and cultural sites, which had become tourist destinations. Such sites did not need protection against destruction and deterioration caused by those who did not recognize their value; they were instead being threatened by people who did understand their value, but who were nonetheless causing wear and tear, damage and even destruction through over-tourism.

Urgent efforts were required to strike a balance between promoting visits and preserving sites and their surroundings. Rules and standards on the behaviour of visitors should be set out and applied at all times, to ensure that tourists fully understood their responsibilities when visiting historical and cultural sites.

Mr. J. ZHANG (China) said that the Chinese Government attached great importance to the country's tangible and intangible cultural heritage. China made every effort to conserve that heritage by observing international conventions, establishing research institutions, and adopting national laws and regulations. The press and parliament played important roles in that regard. The Chinese Government had allocated funds to protect the cultural heritage of both the nation and of ethnic minorities. Lists of cultural property had been established: China had 38 sites on the UNESCO world heritage list, as well as considerable inherited intangible heritage. Efforts were being made to raise public awareness about the importance of protecting all types of cultural heritage and to prevent it from being looted and trafficked. Concerted efforts were also being made to enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation in that regard. Despite China's efforts, the protection of cultural heritage remained threatened by many factors; greater protection was therefore needed. China was committed to increasing its international exchanges.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that the draft resolution did not refer to the role of globalization and its effect on cultural heritage, which had resulted in one part of the world intentionally trying to dominate the rest. Many countries in the world would like to document their cultural heritage but did not have the know-how, facilities or resources to do so. The international community and international organizations such as UNESCO should make efforts to provide technical assistance, in order to assist countries in those situations.

Ms. Z. NCITHA (South Africa) said that humanity's cultural legacy was under threat and recent targeted destruction of cultural sites in the Middle East and Africa had underscored the urgent need for preservation measures. South Africa was party to all relevant UNESCO conventions. Its Constitution provided for the valuing of cultural diversity, which was seen not as a burden or threat to nation building, but as a resource and a source of strength. Heritage month was celebrated every September to recognize South Africa's heritage, including through music and performances, history, language, food and popular memory. A forum for the enforcement of heritage-related laws had been established where heritage crime could be reported, tracked and monitored. A private database of lost and stolen art, antiques and collectables had also been set up. The resolution currently before the Standing Committee would be an important tool for the protection, preservation and promotion of global cultural heritage, for the benefit of future generations.

Mr. J. ALHAI (United Arab Emirates) said that terrorism had intentionally destroyed cultural heritage through theft and looting. Many countries did not have adequate legislation to protect against that. The role of parliaments in protecting cultural heritage must be strengthened, particularly by allocating budgetary resources and adopting legislation to prohibit trade in cultural heritage. That would help prevent looting. Efforts must be made to ensure that cultural heritage was considered an integral part of sustainable development. Unified international cooperation to protect cultural heritage should therefore be enhanced. A comprehensive database of cultural heritage should be established, listing all buildings and cultural sites that required protection. Lastly, consideration should be given to including the protection of cultural heritage in agreements on addressing the impacts of climate change.

Mr. M. HOSSEINI SADR (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that cultural heritage was an expression of the ways of life that communities developed and passed on from generation to generation. It included customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expression and values, all of which must be protected. The continued destruction of cultural heritage the world over, through wars, terrorism and looting, was tantamount to the destruction of the dignity and legacy and humankind. The destruction of cultural heritage had increased to become a vicious strategy of extremists in various parts of the world. This was particularly the case in the Middle East, where people sought to systematically destroy identities. An active and effective joint effort to achieve sustainable peace was the only way that violence and extremism could be overcome and the necessary conditions established to ensure lasting protection against the destruction of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

Mr. M.J. DEVARAJ (Malaysia) expressed his delegation's support for the draft resolution, which was a timely reminder to national parliaments of an important issue. He welcomed the identification of situations in which cultural heritage was threatened, and said that it was particularly important to address the root causes of each situation. If the systemic causes of poverty were not addressed, excessive tourism, looting and trafficking in cultural heritage would be difficult to overcome. Support for agricultural production in developing countries, for example, had a key role to play to ensure that income was supported and maintained in poor, rural areas. Such action would ensure that the resolution could actually be implemented, and that its adoption would be more than merely a symbolic gesture.

Mr. G. GHARTI (Nepal) said that cultural heritage represented human civilization through the course of history and provided an opportunity for learning about the past. International efforts had been made to protect cultural heritage, particularly through UNESCO. However, tangible and intangible heritage remained under great threat, the most serious aspect of which was its destruction by terrorism, sociocultural conflict, looting, trafficking and the effects of climate change. Population growth, urbanization and mass tourism also threatened the conservation of historical sites and landmarks. Nepal had a rich cultural heritage. It was therefore party to several UNESCO conventions and had adopted national policies and legislation to protect cultural heritage and promote fundamental rights relating to language and culture. In order to further protect cultural heritage against numerous contemporary threats, public awareness must be raised and effective legal measures taken. Governments must work together with civil society at the national and international levels to promote and conserve tangible and intangible cultural heritage for the generations to come.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) said she welcomed the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, which condemned the destruction of cultural heritage and banned the trade in Iraqi and Syrian cultural property. She commended efforts at international cooperation to promote the resolution's implementation. In Sweden, a network had been established, comprising customs units, the police force, the national heritage board and the Swedish UNESCO heritage council to address the crime of cultural heritage trafficking. Violence and extremism posed a serious threat to diversity. Education must be promoted as the key to countering the sort of cultural extremist activity and cultural cleansing that was taking place in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. Attention should also be paid to the important role of women in the transmission of intangible cultural heritage, since they traditionally played the principal role in bringing up children and thus in passing down cultural heritage and traditions to the next generation.

Mr. A. HUSSAIN ADAM (Sudan) said that Sudan had more than 400 tribes, each with its own tangible and intangible cultural heritage, all of which faced many threats. The building of dams for agriculture had led to the flooding and destruction of cultural heritage. Wars had caused mass displacement of people, who had left behind their heritage while fleeing for their lives. The Government of Sudan had established colleges for the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage at several Sudanese universities. The colleges were conducting research to monitor changes to heritage sites. It was hoped that a situation of permanent peace and stability could be reached in Sudan to ensure that Sudanese cultural heritage could be further preserved and developed. Public awareness about the value of cultural heritage should be enhanced. The media could play an important role in that regard, in particular targeting young audiences through television and radio. Including material on cultural heritage in school curricula would also help raise awareness of its importance and the need to preserve it.

Mr. J. JAMALDINI (Pakistan) said that Pakistan was facing tremendous threats to its cultural heritage. Lack of awareness, financial constraints, poverty, inequality and indifference were leading to the destruction of tangible and intangible heritage. Pakistan had several internationally renowned cultural heritage sites, including ancient archaeological remains. Efforts must be made to educate people about the importance of cultural heritage and the need to ensure its protection.

Mr. V. MACEDO (Portugal) said that the protection of cultural heritage had always been a priority for Portugal, which was party to several relevant UNESCO conventions. The Portuguese Parliament had long recognized the importance of preserving and revitalizing cultural heritage, and had paid particular attention to identifying its intangible aspects. The draft resolution was particularly pertinent, since globalization and armed conflict had increased the threats that cultural

heritage faced. Countries must work not only to ensure the protection of their own heritage but also to ensure respect for the heritage of others. Cultural heritage was a legacy that distinguished all of mankind and must be preserved for future generations.

Mrs. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA (Cyprus) said that the large-scale destruction of cultural heritage was an act of aggression against civilization that was disorienting people and undermining their sense of national identity. Tangible and intangible cultural heritage were essential living treasures, representing the past, present and future of peoples. The destruction of cultural heritage in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq had left the world in shock. Similar destruction had taken place in Europe, and in the occupied part of Cyprus in particular, where cultural heritage dating back thousands of years was being destroyed and left to deteriorate. She welcomed efforts by the United Nations Development Programme to protect and preserve several cultural heritage sites on Cyprus, and hoped that the adoption of the resolution currently before the Standing Committee would serve to strengthen such international efforts.

**(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary**  
(C-II/134/DR and C-II/134/DR-am)

The remainder of the sitting was spent considering the proposed amendments to the draft resolution (C-II/134/DR-am).

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

**SITTING OF TUESDAY, 22 MARCH**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 11.30 a.m., with Mr. O. Hav (Denmark), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair. He invited Ms. N. Marino (Australia), member of the Committee Bureau, to preside over adoption of the draft resolution.*

**Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration  
for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity**

**Adoption of the draft resolution**  
(C-II/134/DR)

The CHAIR said that, although amendments to the draft resolution were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could be submitted.

The representative of JAPAN expressed her country's support for the draft resolution, but stressed that there had been little time to debate the preparatory document, particularly as different countries had very different circumstances and needs.

Mr. A. DESTEXHE (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, proposed two sub-amendments. Firstly, the end of the sentence in the second preambular paragraph should read "the nine main challenges referred to below". Secondly, the first operative paragraph should read "urges States to become party to".

The representative of SWITZERLAND expressed support for the second sub-amendment, noting that it made the text more general and less restrictive.

The CHAIR proposed that the Standing Committee consider the draft resolution as a whole.

*The Standing Committee adopted the resolution by consensus.*

*Mr. O. Hav (Denmark) resumed the Chair.*

**(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

*On a proposal by the Chair, the Committee appointed Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) as its Rapporteur to the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly.*

### Preparations for future Assemblies

#### (a) Proposals for a subject item for the next resolution to be considered by the Committee

#### (b) Proposals for the choice of two co-Rapporteurs

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had proposed the following subject item as the next resolution to be considered by the Committee: *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*. The subject item combined the proposals of India and Mexico. Mexico had proposed Ms. G. Cuevas as a co-Rapporteur. The second rapporteur would come from India; their name would be submitted later.

*The Committee approved the subject item and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs.*

#### (c) Proposals for other items for the Committee agenda

On a recommendation of the Bureau, the Committee decided that, at the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly, it would allocate one sitting to a debate on the subject item about financial inclusion and one sitting to a theme proposed by Belgium entitled: *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*.

### Elections

The CHAIR said that there were six vacancies to be filled. The African, Arab and the Twelve Plus Groups had been invited to fill one vacancy each, while the Eurasia Group had been invited to fill three. The following nominations had been received from the geopolitical groups: Ms. J. Mhlanga (Zimbabwe), nominated by the African Group; Mr. A. Hussain Adam (Sudan), nominated by the Arab Group; Ms. Z. Grechani (Republic of Moldova) and Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation), both nominated by the Eurasia Group; Ms. T. Lindberg (Sweden), nominated by the Twelve Plus Group.

*The Committee elected and re-elected the Bureau members as nominated by the geopolitical groups.*

The CHAIR said that the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) a member of the Bureau, for the post of President of the Standing Committee.

*The Committee elected the President as nominated.*

The CHAIR said that the Bureau had decided to nominate Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), a member of the Bureau, for the post of Vice-President of the Committee.

*The Committee elected the Vice-President as nominated.*

*The sitting rose at 12.05 p.m.*

## Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

### SITTING OF MONDAY, 21 MARCH

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with, Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

#### **Adoption of the agenda**

(C-III/134/A.1)

*The agenda was adopted.*

#### **Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015)**

*The summary record of the Committee's previous session was approved.*

#### **Preparatory debate on the next resolution of the Standing Committee: *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective***

(C-III/134/4-Inf.1)

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that the preparatory debate would help the rapporteurs to draft the resolution, which would be examined at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly in October 2016.

She invited the Committee to approve the rapporteurs, noting that Australia had requested to replace Ms. L. Markus with Ms. S. Lines. The President of the IPU had proposed Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior as the second rapporteur.

*It was so decided.*

The ACTING PRESIDENT listed the order of speakers and reminded Members that they could submit written proposals and suggestions on the resolution before 10 April.

Ms. K. JABRE (Director, Division of Programmes, IPU Secretariat) said that slow but steady progress had been made over the previous decade. The average percentage of women in parliament currently stood at just over 20 per cent. The number of parliaments with 30 per cent or more women members had expanded, while those with 10 per cent or fewer had remained stable. Nevertheless, seven parliamentary chambers still had no women members at all.

Factors with a significant impact on women's access to elected office included: the use of quotas; the electoral system in place (mixed or proportional systems provided better opportunities for female candidates); the role of political parties in terms of candidate lists, resources and leadership; cultural norms and stereotypes; gender-sensitive parliaments; the threat of violence or harassment; and political will.

The ACTING PRESIDENT observed that a research questionnaire was currently being carried out on the harassment and intimidation of women in parliament. She introduced the panellists: Ms. S. Lines, (Australia, rapporteur), Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior, (Kenya, rapporteur), Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada), Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak (Egypt), and Mr. J. Zangpo (Bhutan). She asked the panellists to indicate the main challenges to women's full participation in political life in their respective countries.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), *panellist*, said that the challenges facing women in politics were similar to those in other professions. Firstly, as there were few women in leadership positions in general, it was important to promote women leaders outside the political arena. Secondly, the balance between a political career and family life had a significant impact on women's participation in politics, and it was vital to make politics an accessible career for women. Finally, political parties needed to encourage and support women candidates, in order to increase the number of women in parliament.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, said that women faced a range of challenges, including those arising from social norms and practices, a lack of political will and support, opposition from extremist religious groups and both the negative portrayal of women and the lack of positive images of successful women in the media. Education to promote equality must be emphasized.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan), *panellist*, said that his country was a young democracy, where traditional views and cultural roles were still prevalent. Awareness of political processes must be raised and women's involvement in political life fostered. It was also important to consider the burden of a political career on the family lives of young people, which made it difficult to attract young, educated women into politics. The country's geography also made it difficult for female candidates to successfully campaign throughout Bhutan.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that although women's participation in the Australian Parliament stood at over 30 per cent, there was still much more to do. The quota system adopted by her political party had been very effective in getting more women elected to parliament. There was a shortage of women in ministerial positions, on the boards of companies and in other leadership positions. The Australian Parliament was a robust and aggressive space, and was not gender-sensitive. Political parties therefore had a key role to play in promoting women's participation.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that much progress had been made in Kenya to foster women's participation in politics. A debate was underway about how to comply with the constitutional requirement to ensure that 30 per cent of seats in parliament were held by women. If that target was not achieved at the next elections the results could be declared null and void.

Although the majority of voters in Kenya were women, the main political decision-makers were men, which made politics seem like an exclusive club. However, the system was moving slowly towards more balanced representation. There was still a patriarchal system in Kenya, and although attitudes were changing, ways must be found to encourage greater cooperation between the sexes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that a number of common themes had emerged, focusing on cultural and social norms, family life, the sharing of power, and the importance of cooperation to resolve problems.

It was clear that it was not possible to achieve true gender equality without changing people's attitudes. Gender stereotypes relating to public and private roles undermined women's ability to participate in political life, and should be challenged. She questioned whether gender equality was perceived by society as an objective, and whether attaining that objective was the joint responsibility of women and men?

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that in Australia, attitudes had changed to accept the idea that gender equality was the responsibility of women and men. However, political leaders needed to put that idea into practice. Deeds, not words, were needed. Men in particular needed to champion change, and mentor and support women. A strong, robust quota system was also needed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked whether true partnership between men and women was possible in order to achieve gender equality.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that a genuine gender balance was still lacking. Men continued to treat women with suspicion. In order to achieve true partnership, political sacrifices had to be made. There was a need to publicly recognize competent women, and to be ready, from a moral standpoint, to encourage women to take up leadership positions. Legal and moral steps must be taken to achieve the paradigm shift that would realize the goal of gender equality.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked whether those political sacrifices involved men giving up parliamentary seats to women.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that it should be a minimum threshold rather than a target for 30 per cent of parliamentarians to be women. Parliaments needed to set their sights higher. Other paths were also possible. For example, the Indian upper house had rejected a Bill on gender parity, but women's representation in parliament had nonetheless exceeded 30 per cent.

The representative of INDIA noted that that Bill was still pending.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan), *panellist*, responding to the question on how parliamentarians could challenge gender norms, said that he had placed gender equality on the agenda during visits to his constituents. He spoke to university students and used the media and information technology to reach out to people, including through video conferences and radio broadcasts.

Although many felt that a 25 per cent quota for women's representation was needed, highly educated women were not convinced that quota systems were always effective or desirable. Quotas were currently being debated in his country.

The Government of Bhutan had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, introduced six months of maternity leave, and encouraged the participation of women through the concerted efforts of various agencies, education programmes and other outreach initiatives.

The ACTING PRESIDENT noted that quotas were one possible way to enhance women's participation. She asked Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak to provide examples of government policies that had made a real difference to fostering gender equality.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, said that her country had adopted a quota system. It had led to significant change, but quotas themselves could not change people's attitudes. Since the Muslim Brotherhood's removal from power, new legislation, including electoral provisions, had been adopted to foster women's participation. Gender parity had been achieved in closed lists, leading to the election of an unprecedented number of women members of parliament. The Egyptian parliament currently provided a more accurate reflection of Egyptian society. The President was strongly committed to changing social attitudes that could lead to the empowerment of women and young people.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked whether a new law had been introduced to ensure that women were placed higher on closed lists.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, said that the Egyptian Constitution stipulated that women should be empowered and represented. The President had appointed women to senior positions without passing new legislation. Attitudes had changed: the national parliament had become an institution that represented the people and reflected all sectors of society, including marginalized groups.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked the panellists to describe the role of political parties in promoting women's participation.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), *panellist*, said that women must be well represented in leadership roles. In Canada, cross-party efforts had been made to appoint women to key posts. For example, equal numbers of men and women had been appointed to the cabinet.

Although quotas were a contentious issue, they worked at party level, particularly if supported by financial incentives or penalties. His party, the Liberal Party, sought to reach out to women candidates through mentoring programmes, and at local level. It was important to achieve gender diversity from the grass roots up, particularly among younger colleagues and volunteers.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked whether there was resistance from political parties to creating space for women in politics, and what measures could be taken to tackle the problem.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan), *panellist*, said that politicians saw representing the people and winning seats as two separate issues. If the focus was on electoral success alone, then political parties tended to be resistant to change and gender equality would be hard to achieve in the long term. The capacity of women candidates should therefore be strengthened.

Some degree of success had been achieved with the children's parliament. The current Speaker of the national children's parliament was a girl, reflecting the fact that the education and nurturing of boys and girls encouraged them to participate in political life. It was also necessary to provide adequate support, including financial support, and positive role models. The Government had taken measures including the provision of funding to support candidates standing for election.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked whether men were more likely to win a seat than women.

Mr. J. ZANGPO (Bhutan), *panellist*, said that traditions should be changed through education. In the past, for example, girls had not attended school, as the journeys there and back had been difficult, and boarding facilities had not existed. At the moment, there were virtually equal numbers of boys and girls in the education system. In time, with adequate support and awareness-raising measures, women's full participation in politics would be achieved. In Bhutan, schools were now co-educational, and uniforms were provided to encourage girls to attend school.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked the panellists to comment on measures to tackle violence against women. Resistance to women in public roles continued to be expressed as verbal or physical violence or intimidation. Was being a member of parliament a dangerous job?

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that statistically, one woman died in Australia at the hands of her partner every week, and one in three women experienced domestic violence. In view of those statistics, it was inevitable that domestic violence victims also included politicians. Although a political career in Australia was not in itself a dangerous job, the aggressive nature of politics meant that there was a certain amount of pressure and intimidation, and that women were often heckled. It was not an environment in which all women would be comfortable. The Australian Parliament was not gender-sensitive, and the political culture was male-oriented. It was therefore necessary to build partnerships and take action to change the status quo.

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that the situation was similar in New Zealand. Domestic abuse was often a hidden form of violence. Nevertheless, a number of women members of parliament had spoken out about their own experiences, which had been an important step.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, said that violence against women was prevalent worldwide. There was no tradition of supporting women's access to leadership positions in Egypt. In the Arab world, women were not encouraged to enter the political arena. They faced a great deal of pressure from their families and from society. Attempts to harass and humiliate women were concealed behind a mask of concern for their welfare. Social media was also often used to intimidate and undermine women. The difficulties women faced were exacerbated in rural areas, where male dominance was more obvious and entrenched in tribal cultures. Certain extremist religious movements also engaged in campaigns to harass and subjugate women.

The ACTING PRESIDENT asked the panellists whether the political culture in their respective parliaments posed an obstacle to gender equality.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that, before the adoption of the new Constitution, electoral violence had prevented women from going to rallies, voting and standing for election. Some members of parliament had lost their seats due to violence-related offences during elections. Sexist behaviour was not permitted and women's participation was encouraged. In general, the political culture in Kenya treated women fairly.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), *panellist*, said that although the political culture in Canada was still a work in progress, it no longer tolerated sexism, and was moving towards promoting gender diversity and equality. For example, a code of conduct had been drafted that aimed to prevent sexual harassment. Attitudes were changing. Education and awareness-raising efforts sought to ensure that women felt safe and respected. More feminists, both men and women, were needed in order to change the political culture in parliaments. Beliefs mattered, and for many young people, gender equality was an obvious truth.

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that perhaps real hope lay in the younger generation. Children needed to be raised with the right values and both men and women should espouse the feminist cause. She opened the floor to comments and suggestions.

The representative of SLOVENIA said that, at national level, the issue of gender equality had been addressed through legislative provisions on equal opportunities and amendments to the Constitution and electoral law. At the most recent national elections, 35 per cent of those elected to parliament were women. The country had made significant progress towards achieving equality, particularly on political participation. The Government was aware of the importance of balanced representation. It was the duty of parliaments to transpose commitments made into domestic legislation.

The representative of THAILAND said that, although women were active in the business sector, including at high a level, women's participation in political life was low. It was difficult to enter politics, and it was not possible to change people's attitudes solely through legislation. Nevertheless, the Government was in the process of drafting a new constitution. It had recommended the implementation of gender-responsive budgeting, and the introduction of a quota system, in order to ensure that women were able to win seats in parliament. Nonetheless, there was still the question of what could be used to engage women in political life and encourage them to stand for office. She wondered whether the IPU might draft a handbook of best practices for female parliamentary candidates. Such a tool could increase women's participation in politics.

The ACTING PRESIDENT took note of a proposal to create an IPU handbook for women candidates.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that sanctions were also necessary, in order to enforce quotas. For example, there was a Bill before the Canadian Parliament to introduce penalties for failure to meet the established quotas. It was also the responsibility of women in politics to promote and mentor other women.

The representative of JORDAN said that the Government was taking steps to increase women's participation in political life. Around 20 per cent of members of parliament were women, as were three government ministers and half of the university student population. Social progress and education had a significant impact on gender equality. Education was the prime means of achieving equality, and there was a real need to improve the education offered to men and women. It was also important to look at other factors, such as displacement and conflict. Jordan, for example, was hosting more than a million refugees.

Steps taken in Jordan to increase women's representation had included the introduction of quotas, and measures taken by the King to revise the electoral law. The main challenge lay in changing the attitudes of male members of parliament.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM, noting the recent trial of Ms. Nadezhda Savchenko, a Ukrainian member of parliament, suggested that a serious debate was necessary about whether the IPU should travel to the Russian Federation in two years' time. Noting that the Government of the United Kingdom had recently set up a Women and Equalities Committee, he asked the panellists from Kenya and Egypt whether their Governments had established similar bodies.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that his country had established a gender and equality commission, to work towards achieving gender parity.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, noted that her country had a national council for women and an anti-discrimination commission.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that it was time to move on from words – and committees – to real deeds.

The ACTING PRESIDENT stressed the need for participants in the debate to be aware of the use of gendered language.

The representative of MOROCCO said that the Moroccan Constitution, amended in 2011, enshrined Morocco's commitment to upholding international instruments and promoting absolute equality between women and men. The responsibility for achieving equality lay with the Government. A number of committees, including a committee to combat discrimination, had been established. The political will to foster women's participation did exist, and many political parties had introduced quotas, including her own party. Existing legislation on political parties also ensured balanced representation. She noted that, in 2015, amendments to the electoral law had more than doubled the number of women in regional assemblies.

However, it was not possible to increase women's participation in politics without addressing social and economic issues, as well as legal obstacles. In addition to focusing on education, it was also essential to examine the role of the media, and to introduce sanctions or incentives for the media and for political parties.

The representative of KENYA said that it was necessary to focus on attitudes and political culture. That would help to demystify the way in which parliament operated and what people thought about it. In certain cases, it was viewed as a sort of military bastion, designed to defend society. Rather than thinking about legislation and politics, communities tended to think about defence and protection and consequently saw the role of men as protectors.

The right message should be sent to the electorate. Parliaments were not military institutions, but centres of legislative change and representation. On quotas, he wondered whether focusing on percentages stifled democracy in terms of the people's free choice.

The representative of PORTUGAL said that a favourable legal framework and a strong constitution enshrined gender equality in his country. Without a law on quotas, Portugal would never have achieved 30 per cent women's representation. It had been difficult to ensure that the law was adopted. Once in place, however, it was universally acknowledged as a positive approach.

Obstacles to women's participation included the unequal distribution of domestic work and care for dependents. Younger men were more willing to share the burden, while the older generation were less likely to challenge gender stereotypes. In that regard, it was vital to invest in education.

Political parties were making efforts to achieve gender equality, but much more must be done. Gender had to be a cross-cutting, cross-party issue.

It was important to increase the representation of women on committees dealing with subjects such as security, defence and justice, in order to bring a gender perspective to those areas.

She asked the panellists whether their Governments had adopted national plans on parliamentary committee membership, and whether there were internal rules on the gender balance of committees.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), *panellist*, said that efforts had been made in Canada to push for equality within the cabinet. Government policy ensured that a gender perspective was applied, and a gender impact assessment carried out for all new policies drafted. Recently, a government committee had examined the issue of the gender pay gap.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that no such internal rules existed. It was very difficult for women to be appointed to certain committees, such as those dealing with defence or economic affairs. Consensus must be achieved on the importance of promoting women to leadership positions. There were no parliamentary rules to ensure gender balance in the membership of delegations, and some were still made up exclusively of men. However, her party applied its own internal rules on that matter. Women parliamentarians needed to push in order to be appointed to those committees that were not generally seen as of interest to women.

The representative of INDIA noted that his delegation was led by the female Speaker of the Indian parliament. In India, a programme to support girls' education had produced favourable results, and the country had a history of electing women to high-level posts. India had amended its Constitution to promote the participation of women, including by setting quotas for women elected to local government. A Bill on quotas for parliamentary elections was pending. India was a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and had adopted legislation to protect women from domestic abuse and sexual harassment. Five of the country's political parties were led by women, and two of the major parties had introduced quotas for women. He asked whether the panellists agreed that political parties should have quotas, and whether laws should be amended to reserve seats for women in local elections. Would those measures empower women from a social, economic and political point of view?

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that there was a need to move away from an exclusive focus on quotas. Instead, the focus should be on good practices to ensure women's access to political positions, including by making the necessary sacrifices.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that, in Zimbabwe, women's participation had doubled thanks to a special electoral quota system designed to ensure that at least 30 per cent of those elected were women. There had also been a corresponding increase in awareness and gender sensitivity in development planning and at grass-roots level. Party regulations needed to include provisions to enhance the political participation of women.

The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that attitudes towards the status of both men and women had to be addressed, particularly of men who chose to stay at home. One of the greatest barriers for young women seeking to enter politics was how to balance a career with family life. Perhaps it was necessary to introduce equity funding to allow women to travel for work with their children, or other measures to support women who wished to be both mothers and members of parliament.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that greater political will was required to move the gender equality agenda forward and achieve gender parity. In South Africa, progress had been made, and at least 40 per cent of members of parliament were women, including some in senior roles. A two-pronged strategy was needed, focusing on quantity and quality. In South Africa, the Government was reviewing all legislation adopted since 1994, to ensure that progress towards achieving a just and democratic society remained on course.

The representative of CANADA said that members of parliament should be encouraged to speak up about harassment and violence, in order to foster dialogue on those issues and combat the social norms that disadvantaged women. It was important to raise the next generation of women to know that they had a choice, and that equality for women meant progress for all. Women must speak out and men must support them. In order to change entrenched attitudes, it was also important to raise awareness among members of parliament about what constituted acceptable behaviour.

The representative of PAKISTAN said that the Constitution of that country guaranteed equal political rights to men and women. There were 230 women in the Senate and in national and provincial assemblies. There was a women's parliamentary caucus, and a range of Bills, including one on domestic violence, had been submitted to parliament. Pakistan had established a commission on the status of women, and the Government strongly believed that gender equality was a prerequisite for development. Political parties had women's wings in order to better mainstream gender issues. Measures had been taken to encourage both genders to participate. The media played a crucial role in changing attitudes towards women, including attitudes towards women parliamentarians.

The representative of NIGERIA said that, in his country, political parties sought to ensure that 30 per cent of candidates were women. Nevertheless, in a multi-party system, that was no guarantee of winning a seat. It was vital to provide adequate funding with which women could campaign for election, particularly in less accessible areas of the country. Steps should be taken to address cultural and social norms that undermined women's participation. It was also important to implement consistent policies to strengthen women's involvement in politics.

The representative of ETHIOPIA said that, in a country as diverse as Ethiopia, democracy was unsustainable without gender equality. The Government was committed to strengthening women's participation, which had reached nearly 40 per cent in 2015, and was nearly at 50 per cent at local level. Progress had been made in tackling sexual intimidation and harassment, a human rights ombudsman had been appointed, and the Government had introduced a range of policies to promote gender equality, including steps to increase girls' enrolment in primary, secondary and university-level education.

The representative of the ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY said that gender equality was essentially a human rights issue. Various types of discrimination prevented women's access to decision-making posts, including social and cultural barriers and the lack of a work-life balance. In Italy, a forum for women and diversity had been established. Certain political parties, including the one to which she belonged, had set quotas for candidate lists. Her current post as a government minister demonstrated that those quotas were effective. Did the panellists think that it was possible to apply that kind of system across the board?

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that balanced representation and quality assurance was needed. The political culture should be changed to accommodate women and ensure that they achieved the positions to which they had every right to aspire.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that she hoped quality assurance would apply to both men and women. Democracy and human rights meant ensuring that women and young people could take their rightful place in society.

The representative of BURUNDI said that efforts to uphold human rights involved ensuring that all members of society had a role to play, including women and young people. In Burundi, a great deal of progress had been achieved, and over 35 per cent of members of parliament were women. New legislation, including provisions on gender-based violence, had been adopted. Measures were in place to enhance the representation of women and young people in parliament.

The representative of BURKINA FASO said that, although government policy fostered the participation of women, social and cultural barriers prevented the successful implementation of quotas. There was an urgent need to raise awareness and educate people so that they accepted women in leadership positions. A 30 per cent gender quota existed for candidate lists. Political parties which did not comply faced losing part of their State funding. Nevertheless, women continued to be placed at the bottom of electoral lists, making it difficult for them to win seats. He wondered why women did not trust other women to hold leadership positions.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said that it was important for women to be preselected into safe seats. While the problem was not necessarily one of trust, more should be done to change both the political culture and people's attitudes.

The representative of OMAN said that no quota system was used in parliamentary elections, although there was a women's forum in Oman. Women faced obstacles such as entrenched cultural beliefs and customs. It was important for women in politics to interact with voters, and to raise awareness through, for example, social media and other technological tools. They could not rely on the same kind of strategies as men, who had access to broader cross-sections of the population and communities. In Oman, women members of parliament did not fear violence or harassment, as legislation existed to prevent such behaviour.

The representative of CHILE said that parliamentary working procedures should be redefined, in order to facilitate women's participation in politics. For example, sexist attitudes must be challenged. The process of change would be long and slow, but necessary. The political establishment must take a hard look at itself, and take steps to promote women's participation in political life.

The representative of MAURITIUS said that all political parties in Mauritius encouraged women's participation. The national assembly had recently elected its first woman President and first female Speaker. There were a number of women ministers, and the majority of magistrates were women. Nevertheless, women could do more to encourage other women to become involved in politics. In countries where women were poorly represented, men should also foster women's participation. He wondered why women sometimes seemed reluctant to support other women.

The representative of CYPRUS said that gender equality was more than an objective. It was a way of achieving true democracy. Real gender equality could not exist without equality for all, irrespective of race, ethnic minority, and class.

The representative of SOUTH SUDAN said that women in South Sudan played a pivotal role in national politics, and noted that the State had acceded to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. A system of proportional representation had been adopted for elections to parliament. Quotas were applied in the form of a geographical list (60 per cent), a women's list (25 per cent) and a party list (15 per cent). Electoral regulations were enshrined in the Constitution. Although women could be included on any of the lists, they rarely wished to appear on the geographical one. The Government was acting to encourage them to do so, as it acknowledged the importance of women's active participation in politics.

The representative of SRI LANKA said that very few women participated in Sri Lankan politics. A range of obstacles existed. Although the proportional representation system was theoretically advantageous for women candidates, problems such as a lack of access to funding or the threat of violence and defamation still made it difficult for women to take part in politics. New legislation was set to increase female representation by a quarter. A new constitution was being drafted, and it was hoped that it would enhance women's participation. It was important to focus on education, and to teach boys and girls about respect from a young age.

The representative of NAMIBIA said that legislation adopted in 2012 had sought to achieve gender parity. Namibia had a woman prime minister and deputy prime minister, and women also occupied other high-level posts. Awareness should be raised about women's issues to challenge cultural stereotypes and demonstrate women's true potential. It was hoped that in a few years, women's representation in parliament would increase even further.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that the wide range of roles that women fulfilled and the obstacles they had to overcome showed that they were just as capable as men. Women played an important role in building societies and, in Bahrain, were true partners in the development process. They worked together with men to overcome challenges, and had full access to decision-making powers. Women held senior posts in the judiciary and in government ministries. The Constitution guaranteed women's rights and fostered their participation. Governments needed to ensure that citizens supported the election of women to parliament, and that people were made aware of the important role of women in society.

The representative of GHANA said that there was resistance from women in politics to the introduction of quotas. At times, women could be their own worst enemy. She wondered how long it would take to overcome discrimination and sexism and achieve equality. Sanctions should be imposed on countries that failed to ensure that at least 30 per cent of elected representatives were women.

The representative of SINGAPORE said that significant and rapid progress had been made and that the system in Singapore was meritocratic. Education was extremely important and equal opportunities were offered to all children. There was no specific gender equality law in place, but equality was enshrined in the Constitution, which prohibited all forms of discrimination. Women could enter politics, and parties sought out suitable female candidates. The Speaker of the parliament was a woman.

The representative of BENIN said that their country was pursuing a policy similar to one that had been implemented by Burkina Faso. There was a need to ensure that women were viewed as leaders.

In Benin, women's representation in parliament had increased through the efforts of women leaders rather than through quotas. Women in positions of power needed to set an example and inspire future generations of women. Education was also extremely important. A political career was not easy and required certain sacrifices. It was important to acknowledge the challenges that women faced.

The representative of SUDAN said progress had been made in the struggle to achieve gender equality. In 2015, women had won at least 30 per cent of seats in closed list ballots. A number of women held high-level ministerial positions in the executive, including posts in the ministry of education and technology and the justice ministry as well as in embassies across the world.

The representative of TOGO said that, at the national level, a favourable legal framework and specific electoral provisions promoted gender parity. However, it was difficult to find women candidates for parliamentary posts. They were concerned about the impact of a political career on their personal life, and about possible criticism or financial difficulties, as politics was an expensive business. He invited the panellists to suggest solutions to those problems, and said that the IPU must focus on identifying genuine concerns and seek common strategies to address them.

The representative of SWEDEN said that the struggle for equality was an ongoing battle. In Sweden, a country with a reputation for equality, a great deal of progress had been made. The gender-balanced party lists that had seemed controversial twenty years previously were currently considered standard practice. There had been concerns that gender would be taken into account ahead of competence, but results had proved that the opposite was true. More women in politics led to better and more competent parliaments. Her own party had set objectives to ensure that 25 per cent of elected representatives were under 25, and had campaigned for better representation of migrants in parliament.

It was important to use quotas with care in order to ensure that parliaments represented all sections of society and to prevent different groups forcing each other out.

Mr. M. KILONZO JUNIOR (Kenya), *panellist*, said that in order to build partnerships, it was necessary to break down walls and build trust. As the representative of Sweden had indicated, it made no sense to focus exclusively on quotas. It was also vital to change attitudes.

Ms. S. LINES (Australia), *panellist*, said it was heartening to hear that many countries had quota systems in place. She welcomed the comments from men on the issue of women's participation. Democracies faced a range of challenges: changing the political culture was an important step, while selecting women candidates for safe seats must not be overlooked.

Ms. M. AZER ABDELMALAK (Egypt), *panellist*, said that civil society organizations needed to play an active role in efforts to achieve equality. Government strategies must focus on education, especially primary education.

Mr. N. ERSKINE-SMITH (Canada), *panellist*, said that family obligations were a major obstacle to women's participation in politics. In Canada, the women's caucus was trying to address that issue through, for example, a travel point system. Countries pursuing specific policies on promoting a work-life balance should submit information to the IPU in order to identify successful strategies. Men needed to advocate for feminism and gender equality.

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that the Rapporteurs would work to integrate the ideas discussed into a draft resolution.

*The sitting rose at 12.40 p.m.*

## SITTING OF TUESDAY, 22 MARCH 2016

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.*

### **Debate on open parliaments: Building an association on accountability**

The ACTING PRESIDENT encouraged parliamentarians to attend the World e-Parliament Conference, due to take place in Valparaiso, Chile, in June 2016. He then introduced the three panellists who would set the scene for the interactive debate.

Mr. D. SWISLOW (Senior Partnerships Officer, National Democratic Institute - NDI), *panellist*, gave an overview of the subject. There had been an extraordinarily rapid global growth in the use of mobile devices, which was changing the ways of the world. It was giving rise to expectations among the public that governments should function as instantaneously as digital technologies. Only a small percentage of citizens felt that governments listened to them. Parliaments were generally slow to harness technology through which they could engage with the public, although progress was under way with assistance from the network of civil society organizations behind the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. The Declaration ([www.OpeningParliament.org](http://www.OpeningParliament.org)) had been launched in 2012. Since then, it had been endorsed by bodies including the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Parliaments of Peru and Serbia.

Among the examples of parliamentary initiatives for promoting legislative transparency, there were: the National Transparency and Open Parliament Week, an annual event organized by the Mexican Parliament; the Ghanaian Parliament's Committee on Government Assurances, which engaged citizens in its oversight role through an online portal, SMS, WhatsApp and a mobile application; and nouabook.ma, which enabled Moroccan citizens to communicate online with their parliamentarians. There was also the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral initiative begun in 2011 to promote transparency and accountability in participating countries. There were currently 69 members of OGP. They had committed to working with civil society to build transparency and accountability action plans, the implementation of which was independently monitored. The Legislative Openness Working Group was also part of OGP. The Working Group was a partnership between civil society, parliaments and governments, coordinated by NDI and the Congress of Chile. Its objective was to share good practices on legislative openness.

Ms. L. ROJAS (Mexico), *panellist*, presented the development of open parliament in Mexico. She said that many citizens felt ignored by their governments and lacked trust in their parliaments. That signalled the need for open parliamentary mechanisms that would address such concerns and build closer relationships with all citizens, including by enabling them to voice their needs. Mexico was a founding Government and former co-Chair of OGP and had hosted the OGP Global Summit in 2015. The Organic Law of Mexico's General Congress was being amended to incorporate policies relating to access to information, personal data protection, archive management and parliamentary openness. The amended version was scheduled to be approved in 2017. In 2014, the country's Open Parliament Alliance had also been launched together with civil society organizations. Its objective was to work for greater legislative transparency, as was the Bicameral Commission on Open Parliament. In addition, the General Law on Transparency provided that all three branches of government were required to work with civil society on implementing joint mechanisms for the promotion of open government.

Examples of openness and transparency in practice included: posting information about legislation, finance and administration on the website of the Mexican Parliament; using particular methods to appoint commissioners to the National Institute for Information Access (publishing candidates' CVs, televising their interviews etc.); involving civil society in the drafting of the General Law on Transparency; and conducting public hearings on various topics, where citizens could express their views. The Justice Commission also worked with a group of experts and citizens in simulated oral trials in order to ascertain how new criminal procedures due to be introduced would function in practice.

There was an interesting e-book on the results and expectations of open parliaments ([www.tm.org.mx/open-parliaments-book/](http://www.tm.org.mx/open-parliaments-book/)). It had been produced by *Tranparencia Mexicana*, a non-governmental organization (NGO) working on anti-corruption issues. Efforts were also being made in conjunction with *Tranparencia Mexicana* to fight corruption, including through constructing the necessary institutional frameworks and accompanying rules. Parliamentary openness meant sharing the parliamentary function with citizens in order to build the country's public assets and strengthen legitimacy.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), *panellist*, said that, at the time of his first election to the UK parliament in 1992, he had also become the first member of parliament to have a website. Matters had changed dramatically since then. Social networks had arisen, and these were now used by the public to express their views and conduct discussions on current affairs. Hansard, the official verbatim report of parliamentary proceedings in the UK, had been published online since 1989. Parliamentary debates were now webcast and televised; by contrast, it had not been long ago that visitors sitting in the public gallery had been prevented from taking any written notes.

As part of its commitment to openness and transparency, the UK Parliament complied with the Freedom of Information Act, under which the expenses of members of parliament had been made public. Notwithstanding the resulting scandal, fuelled partly by the media, it was right for taxpayers to know how their money was being spent. Other efforts to connect with the public included opening a Parliamentary Education Centre for student visitors, establishing outreach offices across the country and an internship programme for university students. If a public petition attracted more than 100,000 signatures the subject of the petition was debated in parliament. There was now an option to submit them online as e-petitions.

A Speaker's Commission on Digital Democracy had been established to investigate how digital technology might promote greater transparency, inclusiveness and public engagement in parliamentary democracies. The five key targets for Parliaments to achieve were: to ensure, by 2020, that everyone understood what parliament did; to be fully interactive and digital by 2020; to immediately create a new forum for public participation; to provide, by 2020, secure online voting as an option for all voters; and, by 2016, to make all of its published information and broadcast footage freely available online in formats suitable for re-use. Work was now underway to achieve those targets and bring parliament back into the lives of citizens. He was optimistic about the benefits that technology would bring in future. Openness was not a choice but an imperative to be embraced by all parliaments.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP), *panellist*, discussed comparative experiences of parliamentary openness. He said that UNDP had gathered knowledge on the subject through its work to strengthen parliaments in some 70 countries. That had included working to combat corruption, which necessarily called for openness and transparency. The first Global Parliamentary Report had been jointly produced by the IPU and UNDP. It had focused on the changing nature of representation and other important related issues. In particular, the report had highlighted the heightened expectations of a public who wanted

parliaments to be open and to work in ways that they could understand. It found that the public set great store by accountability and transparency as a means of breaking down perceived barriers between parliaments and constituents. Interactivity was a vital but often neglected aspect of openness. Technology, including social media, offered significant opportunities. However, it also had its limitations, and tended to raise expectations beyond what parliaments were capable of achieving. Public expectations must therefore be honestly managed. It was similarly important to ascertain what was acceptable in terms of openness.

He gave examples of how parliaments around the world engaged with citizens. The European Parliament had developed a pioneering way to use social media. *Curul 501* was an online resource, which provided information about the functions of the Mexican Parliament and encouraged direct interaction with representatives. There was a Swiss-funded project designed to strengthen the oversight function and transparency of the Serbian Parliament, including through a system of real-time tracking of the State budget expenditure. Civil society organizations in Portuguese-speaking West African countries had been promoting public awareness of public accounts management.

Within the Open Government Partnership (OGP), ground-breaking national action plans had been developed by Chile, France, Georgia and Ukraine. Lessons had been learned from those plans, including about the need to have separate action plans for parliaments and governments; to strengthen the openness of the institution of parliament in ways that went beyond individual parliamentarians; to demonstrate strong ongoing cross-party commitment; to develop action plans in partnership with civil society; and to make situation-specific commitments.

The more that parliaments participated in OGP, the stronger the initiative would become. That would facilitate the task of satisfying public demand for parliamentary openness and accountability.

The ACTING PRESIDENT invited comments from the floor.

The representative of BAHRAIN wondered whether facilitating communication and interaction between voters and their representatives would truly encourage greater public engagement with and trust in parliamentarians, particularly among young people. He asked about the outcomes of debates prompted by public petitions, which he saw as an interesting concept.

The representative of CHILE said that there were many elements to be considered on the important issue of transparency, including its limits. Information could, for instance, be relayed in a manner that unwittingly created a distorted picture of the facts and led to misunderstandings. That could undermine the image of politicians, who might be subjected to unwarranted scrutiny because of information provided in the name of transparency.

The representative of GUINEA said that citizens in his region tended to believe that governments made empty promises. There was also a belief that the executive and the judiciary connived to arrange matters to their advantage. In Guinea, parliamentarians were demonstrably accountable to their constituents. They enjoyed a higher level of public confidence compared senior government officials, who were generally mistrusted.

The representative of CHINA said that his country's elected representatives defended the interests of the people through their oversight function. The National People's Congress made information publicly available through its press conferences and reports, which were also accessible online. In addition, members of the Congress found out what the public thought through field visits, including to remote parts of the country. Strengthening such actions would enable more open government to be achieved.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA noted the importance of an open legislature to the proper functioning of any democracy. He said that the quest to put participatory democracy into action had been consistently pursued in his country, including through its parliamentary processes, as directed by the Constitution. Tools were in place for promoting openness and transparency, examples of which were: a vibrant parliamentary committee system that allowed unprecedented scope for public participation; a system for ensuring public input into the annual State of the Nation address; a budgeting process in which all stakeholders were fully involved; extensive coverage of parliamentary proceedings through all media channels; the use of 11 official languages in parliament; and the addition of social media platforms as an additional means of communicating with a wider range of citizens, including young people. However, the high cost of connectivity posed a challenge.

Mr. A.Y. DESAI (India) said that the transparency and openness of parliaments were intertwined; one seamlessly reinforced the other. Parliaments must be responsible and accountable before their citizens. Mechanisms for achieving that in the Indian Parliament included the use of numerous procedural devices; the publication of bills, parliamentary proceedings and committee reports; the conduct of public hearings by parliamentary committees, which were designed to solicit views from citizens; and live broadcasting and webcasting of parliamentary proceedings. A dedicated parliamentary television channel also aired programmes relating to issues of democracy, governance, and other public concerns. The webpages of both houses were an important reference tool, which provided information to which citizens were entitled by law. By harnessing such methods for enhancing citizen participation in the legislative process, parliaments would increase their openness and accountability, and bring themselves closer to the people they represented.

The representative of ZIMBABWE described the functions and responsibilities of democratic parliaments on the basis of the criteria promoted by the IPU. He highlighted the crucial concept of parliamentary openness as provided for in the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. The legitimacy of parliament was deepened when parliamentarians developed a connection with citizens. In Zimbabwe, those connections were achieved by constitutional provisions requiring public access to and involvement in parliamentary processes, including through: appropriate consultation and the right to petition; timely institutional responses to citizens' needs; and timely public access to accurate information. Public involvement in parliamentary business had furthermore been increased following reforms that had seen the introduction of public hearings, budget consultations, live media coverage of parliamentary debates, open interviews for public commissioner candidates and an interactive website offering resources such as Hansard records. All those factors contributed to enhancing parliamentary effectiveness, openness and responsiveness.

The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES emphasized that it was vital to keep citizens fully informed of parliamentary activities. In doing so, public involvement in legislative and decision-making processes would strengthen, while monitoring the parliamentary response to citizens' concerns and aspirations would also become more robust. However, websites and a social media presence were not enough to promote parliamentary openness. There were more serious challenges. First, the influence of ordinary citizens was diminished by the fact that a majoritarian voting system was used. Secondly, the lack of technological resources in some countries impeded information exchange and transparency, and so affected the quality of performance. Thirdly, parliamentary language and structure were obscure, alien and difficult to understand for ordinary citizens. She commended the Mexican *Curul 501* initiative for translating legal jargon into accessible language.

The representative of JORDAN said that citizens in his country had high levels of access to their representatives. Jordanian parliamentarians worked hard to serve their electorate above and beyond their legislative role. Information on parliamentary activities was freely available and parliamentary proceedings were open and televised. That had led to widespread engagement with parliament and high levels of trust in the way it worked. Public oversight of decision-making processes was furthermore enhanced by awareness of those processes. UNDP had played an important role in promoting a culture of transparency in Jordan. Similar efforts should be made to increase the involvement of civil society in that oversight work.

Ms. A. OSEI-ASARE (Ghana) said that many of the parliamentary practices mentioned by previous speakers were in place in Ghana, with the exception of e-petitions and digital debates, which she believed would come in due course. She highlighted the public hearings conducted by the Committee on Government Assurances and the Public Accounts Committee. They were particularly effective in holding government officials and auditors to account and in improving the country's public financial management. She therefore fully endorsed the view that openness was not a choice but a necessity.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN observed that the performance of parliaments and political parties must be measured by the extent to which they fulfilled the people's wishes. The level at which human rights were respected should also be used as a benchmark, while the rights of voters, who determined each parliamentary mandate, must be upheld without party interference. Any reliance on political parties destroyed democracy, and weakened human rights, good governance and the rule of law. In his country's true democracy, parliamentarians were directly elected by the people, minimally dependent on political parties and free from

presidential dictates. The very highest government officials were subject to parliamentary questioning, and citizens had a constitutional right to file complaints against the executive, judiciary and legislature. His delegation was keen to share experiences in the interests of promoting parliamentary openness.

The representative of PALESTINE maintained that there were limitations to parliamentary openness. They might exist because the ability of those involved to communicate was affected in some way, because technologies for interacting with citizens were scarce or not available, or because of a mismatch between citizens' expectations of parliament and reality.

Mr. J. LACÃO (Portugal) said that the Portuguese Parliament had undertaken key initiatives in order to promote citizen awareness and ownership of the country's political system. The initiatives included establishing a young people's parliament, television programmes on parliamentary activities, organized visits to Parliament, and parliamentary open days. The Parliament's website could be used to contact individual members, submit petitions and present proposals. The Parliament also ran a Facebook page and a digital television channel with sign-language interpretation. The aim of those initiatives was to increase public knowledge about the workings of Parliament and help create a new generation of active citizens.

The representative of ANGOLA said that, in practice, there was no parliamentary oversight in his country. That was because, under the Constitution, the executive was neither politically accountable nor subordinate to Parliament. Some claimed that transparency was either unnecessary or impossible to achieve. He wondered what could be done to put Angola onto the right path to democracy once and for all.

The representative of MALAWI said that efforts were under way in her country to take the Parliament to the people. That would be achieved through awareness-raising activities organized by civil society and through work carried out by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy. Parliamentary proceedings were aired on television and radio stations. Broadcast journalists also interviewed parliamentarians to ask what they were doing for local people. Hansard records were produced and circulated free of charge.

The representative of EQUATORIAL GUINEA said that the plenary sessions of his Parliament were open to the public, but committee meetings were not. Strategies and formal partnerships were desperately needed to encourage closer cooperation between Parliament and civil society. Corruption was a major concern for his country and an open parliamentary system was crucial for tackling it. A parliamentary code of conduct was being developed with a view to promoting transparency. Electronic technology had not yet been introduced in Parliament. When it was, however, it would be a useful tool for assisting Parliament's work. The IPU had provided a strong level of support in the development of the country's parliamentary strategies.

The representative of KENYA said that the critical issue of parliamentary openness, accountability and oversight was taken very seriously in Kenya, where public participation was entrenched in the Constitution. Parliamentary proceedings therefore received live coverage, and parliamentarians made themselves available to answer constituents' questions. For appointments requiring parliamentary approval, members of parliament were required to take into account citizens' views. For budget-related issues, the public was also consulted throughout the country.

The representative of FRANCE said that transparency was not a choice but rather a natural product of the trends now shaping parliamentary work. Information and communication technologies had facilitated the transmission, receipt and generation of information. Information was now more accessible, and the public was more knowledgeable than it had been in the past. Investment should be channelled into developing strategies that would tap into that new collective intelligence. It could also be deployed to make independent assessments of government performance. Open data was also conducive to the creation of novel solutions to difficult issues. Whoever shared information would also share power, and witness a new balance between representative and direct democracy.

Mr. T.J.P. TAPSOBA (Burkina Faso) recalled the time when a constitutional amendment was proposed by the then President of Burkina Faso to enable him to stand for re-election. It had sparked protests, the vote on the amendment had been suspended and the President had hastily departed to a neighbouring country. It was now the duty of parliamentarians to renew their connection with the people by promoting openness, strengthening their partnership with civil

society, explaining the workings of Parliament, and describing their own commitment and responsibility to the public. All means of communication must be used to achieve those aims. However, the main aim should be to work towards fulfilling people's aspirations. Failing to make a difference to their lives would breed mistrust.

The representative of SUDAN said that, in 2014, her country's Parliament had adopted a new and more open approach to its work. It had sought to engage civil society and other stakeholders in the legislative process. Laws had also been enacted to promote transparency, fight corruption and ensure freedom of access to information. Parliament had its own website, catered for university students wishing to learn more about its processes and was working more widely to increase its openness.

The representative of PAKISTAN noted that openness and transparency made for more effective parliaments. Her Parliament had developed a website that provided information on parliamentary proceedings and included a code of conduct. The Parliament of Pakistan had an ethics committee. It was empowered to question ministers, who were also required to report to it on all matters under its consideration. Citizens were now able to submit e-petitions, and internships were available for university students to learn about parliamentary work.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), *panellist*, said that petitions made it possible for important issues of public concern to be raised and debated in Parliament. While votes on such issues were not binding, the outcome could bring about the desired impact almost immediately. Press freedom was a matter of vital importance in all countries, notwithstanding any varying levels of democracy and openness.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP), *panellist*, said that parliaments won high levels of confidence where they held governments to account. Parliamentary openness and transparency was important as it was essential to understand what parliaments were doing for their citizens. He concurred with the representative of Angola that the trend in presidential systems to undermine parliamentary accountability was a concern and encouraged him to compare experiences with the Sri Lankan delegation. The representative of France had correctly observed how important transparency was to oversight and accountability. Both those issues would be the subject of the next edition of the IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report. He thanked the representative of Jordan for his comments about UNDP efforts in Jordan and the need to involve civil society in openness initiatives.

Mr. D. SWISLOW (Senior Partnerships Officer, National Democratic Institute - NDI), *panellist*, agreed that transparency was not a choice but a necessity: information was now so ubiquitous that transparency was unstoppable. Responding to the representative of Bahrain, he said that encouraging more trust was not necessarily the issue; it was more a question of working to increase the understanding of citizens about how modern-day parliaments functioned. He agreed with the representative of Chile that releasing information could increase pressure to respond to allegations. If the media misunderstood such information, there was a potential for conflict. It was important to work with civil society rather than to have a combative relationship.

The ACTING PRESIDENT thanked the panellists and other participants for their comprehensive contributions to the debate.

### Elections

The ACTING PRESIDENT announced that the Asia-Pacific Group had nominated Mr. P. Wangchuk (Bhutan) as its candidate for membership of the Bureau, while the Twelve Plus Group had nominated Mr. J. Lacão (Portugal).

*The Committee elected those two candidates by acclamation.*

The ACTING PRESIDENT said that the geopolitical groups had agreed that the next President of the Committee should be from the African Group. However, as the Group had not yet nominated its candidate for the position, the election of the President was to be deferred until the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly, when the election of the Vice-President of the Committee would also take place.

*The sitting rose at 11.35 a.m.*

## Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

### SITTING OF TUESDAY, 22 MARCH

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 2.45 p.m., with Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), President of the Committee, in the Chair.*

*During the course of the meeting, a number of speakers expressed their condolences to the families and friends of victims of that morning's terrorist attacks in Belgium and voiced solidarity with the Belgian people.*

#### Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/134/A.1.rev)

*The revised agenda was adopted.*

#### Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held on the occasion of the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva (October 2015)

*The summary record of the Committee's session held during the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly was approved.*

#### Elections

The PRESIDENT announced that the Arab Group had nominated Mr. A.F.I. Al-Mansour (Sudan) and Ms. A.R. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) as its candidates for the positions of Vice-President and member of the Committee respectively. The Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation) as its candidate for the position of member. Candidates who were present were invited to introduce themselves to the Committee.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), introducing the candidate for the Eurasia Group in his absence, said that Mr. Romanovich, a fluent English speaker, was an experienced opposition member of the Russian State Duma and deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee on International Affairs. He had returned home early from the IPU Assembly in order to take up his new office as Deputy Speaker.

Ms. A.R. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates), candidate for the Arab Group, said that she had been a member of her country's Federal National Council since 2011 and was currently serving a second term of office. She spoke two languages and had a passive knowledge of a third. She had 10 years of experience in humanitarian work in the area of victim protection and support, including in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies. She currently ran a shelter for women victims of violence and trafficking.

*The Committee elected the three candidates to the Bureau.*

#### Interactive debate on the appointment process for the Secretary-General of the United Nations

(C-IV/134/4-Inf.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the planned hearing with candidates for the post of Secretary-General of the United Nations had been cancelled. The candidates from Croatia and Slovenia had sent letters in which they expressed appreciation for the work of the IPU and the role of parliaments in tackling global challenges, including in cooperation with the United Nations. The IPU Secretariat had produced a background note on the appointment and mandate of the Secretary General (C-IV/134/4-Inf.1). The note included a set of questions for consideration by parliamentarians and outlined that, at the time of writing, seven candidatures had been submitted for the post.

He introduced the guests who would set the scene for the interactive debate: Ms. Y. Terlingen, representative of *1 for 7 Billion*, a widely-supported global campaign working to improve the selection process and ensure the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position of Secretary-General; Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation); and Ms. G. Ortiz (Mexico).

Ms. Y. TERLINGEN, (representative of the 1 for 7 Billion campaign), *panellist*, presented the case for improving the selection system for the UN Secretary-General. She said that in today's world of multiple global crises and challenges, high moral authority and independence were among the merit-based qualities required in the person who would be appointed. In addition to embodying the values of the Charter of the United Nations, the successful candidate must be a good administrator and a visionary. He or she must also be capable of mediating and preventing conflict, and of implementing both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The selection process was conducted in secret by veto-carrying members of the United Nations Security Council and involved practices clearly inconsistent with Article 100 of the Charter. The process was outdated. It must be made more transparent and open, taking into account Article 97 of the Charter and the fact that the General Assembly should go beyond merely rubber-stamping the recommendation of the Security Council in its choice of candidate.

Recognizing that United Nations reform was slow and cumbersome, the *1 for 7 Billion* campaign had been launched in November 2014, two years before the appointment of the next Secretary-General. Since then, the campaign had attracted support from over 750 non-governmental organizations, from various Member States and from groups such as the Elders (chaired by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan), and Parliamentarians for Global Action. Resolution 69/321 on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly had been unanimously adopted in September 2015. Regarding the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, the resolution stressed the principles of transparency and inclusiveness and the need to present women candidates to ensure gender balance. It also set out a number of selection criteria and a revolutionary proposal to conduct hearings or meetings with candidates. The hearings were scheduled to take place in April 2016 and the outcome was expected to be considered by the Security Council.

Significant as those improvements were, they did not go far enough. As a result, the General Assembly was in the process of discussing two further proposals. The first was that the Security Council should recommend multiple candidates to the General Assembly. That could ensure a more democratic selection process in which the final decision rested with all 193 Member States. The second was that the term of office of the Secretary-General should be longer – possibly seven years instead of five - but non-renewable. That could help to create the independence and political space needed for the incumbent to exercise effective leadership in a highly complex and rapidly changing global setting.

Drawing attention to a paper in which *1 for 7 Billion* presented the arguments in favour of the proposals, she called on parliamentarians to support the move for change by: debating the qualities needed for the position; identifying and putting forward for selection their most highly-qualified national candidates, including women; proposing and evaluating questions for the candidates in the forthcoming hearings; insisting that the permanent members of the Security Council should not extract promises from candidates in exchange for support; and urging their governments to support the proposals for multiple candidates being presented to the General Assembly and a longer, non-renewable term of office. In so doing, parliamentarians could play a key role in promoting the selection of an outstanding leader of the United Nations who was fully capable of rising to such challenges as resolving conflicts, making peace and saving lives.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *panellist*, said that the presentation provided stimulating food for thought as part of the more general discussion of the overwhelming need for the United Nations to reform and improve. However, any action that might entail irreversible consequences must be treated with caution. The presentation had conveyed the view that the Secretary-General was more of a general than a secretary. He believed that, in actual fact, the Secretary-General's function was more managerial and that the Organization was led by the Member States. The goal should not therefore be to strengthen the independence of the Secretary-General but rather to strengthen support for his or her work.

Selection of the Secretary-General on the basis of regional rotation was a fair tradition. Gender considerations were important, provided that merit remained the priority. It was immaterial whether the appointment was for a renewable five-year term or a non-renewable seven-year term. The key question was the number of candidates that the Security Council should recommend, bearing in mind claims that the vetoes of the Council's five permanent members allowed them to discriminate against certain candidates. However, a right to veto could equally be said to weaken the power of those members by limiting their opportunity to take one-sided decisions. The requirement for consensus among all Council members was as a good basis for a functioning partnership between the Council and the Secretariat and effectively averted internal conflicts and tensions. There was no pressing need for the IPU to advocate a change in the current rules.

Ms. G. ORTIZ (Mexico), *panellist*, said that currently, there was a focus on gender and geographical balance in the selection process. That signalled a recognition that the world was changing and that greater inclusiveness was needed as a result. However, the emphasis on gender and the candidacy of women for the post of Secretary-General must go beyond policy alone and form part of a bold and genuine effort for progress. More than one candidate should be recommended to the General Assembly for selection. The person appointed must have the moral authority required for shaping the destiny of the United Nations. A woman was fully capable of performing that role. Moreover, a female perspective would bring added benefit to the wide range of social, human rights and other issues that the United Nations tackled across the world. Indeed, the appointment of a woman would help to rejuvenate the United Nations and promote the attainment of its objectives.

Ms. Y. TERLINGEN, (representative of the 1 for 7 Billion campaign), *panellist*, underscored the vital criterion of accountability. The UN Secretary-General must be accountable, not only to the Security Council, but also to all 193 Member States. None of the proposals developed by *1 for 7 Billion* in any way diminished that accountability. By contrast, the existing promise of reselection for a second five-year term did little to promote it, particularly given the minimum involvement of the General Assembly. A single non-renewable term would enhance accountability by compelling candidates to present their agenda before they were selected. The only rules for appointing a new UN Secretary-General that currently existed were in Article 97 of the UN Charter. All of the proposals developed by her organization were rooted in United Nations resolutions and were supported by former Secretaries-General. Women of the right calibre clearly existed. She looked forward to the emergence of yet more highly-qualified women candidates in the run-up to the final selection.

Baroness HOOPER (United Kingdom) welcomed the interactive debate and the helpful views presented on the selection process. She said that, when she returned to the United Kingdom, she intended to call for a debate on the subject in Parliament. She hoped that other parliamentarians would follow suit as a means of positively engaging in United Nations affairs. The United Kingdom view was that the next UN Secretary-General must have integrity, a proven track record, first-class communication skills, suitable and relevant experience and unimpeachable character. He or she must display strong leadership qualities, have a bold vision for an activist United Nations at the heart of the rules-based system. The successful candidate must be committed to transparency and accountability; cost-effective management and reform; implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); driving forward proposals to reform peacekeeping; and strengthening, among others, United Nations human rights activities. The process should not be conducted behind closed doors, or be determined by geographical or gender balance. The best person for the job must be appointed and it would be splendid if that person turned out to be a woman.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa) said that the question of the next UN Secretary-General was of critical importance, particularly for Africa, and was central to wider United Nations reform. That included reform of the Security Council, where membership continued to exclude Africa. It was time for a woman to head the United Nations. The Organization must now manifest its support for gender balance and mainstreaming by selecting its next Secretary-General from among the undoubtedly large pool of women qualified to hold the position and drive forward reform.

Ms. T. MORAIS (Portugal) agreed that the qualities cited previously were indeed prerequisites for those seeking to become the next UN Secretary-General. The Portuguese candidate, Mr. António Guterres, aptly demonstrated those qualities and was the best person for the job. That view was supported by his career and experience, both as a politician and as UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He had a strong capacity for dialogue and decision-making. He was sensitive to fundamental human rights issues, including human trafficking and children's rights. He would surely pursue gender equality as a main goal, including in the context of UN reform. She therefore urged support for his candidacy.

Ms. B. AMONGI (Uganda) said that she endorsed the *1 for 7 Billion* campaign. High-level positions at the United Nations were invariably dominated by certain countries. That was due to practices such as promising support for UN Secretary-General candidates who were favoured by the Security Council. Reform was crucial to ensuring that the United Nations was an inclusive

global organization worthy of universal trust and respect. It would only be trusted and respected if all Member States played a determining role in the selection of its Secretary-General, who would then be accountable to them.

Mr. M.S. BENMESSAOUD (Morocco) said that the development of the United Nations into an organization fully equipped to perform its role would be promoted by giving women a genuine opportunity to assume leadership of the Organization. Indeed, the hope was that its next UN Secretary-General would be a woman. The office should be limited to one term to enable the Secretary-General to work with greater freedom. It would remove the pressure of needing to be nominated for a second term. A mechanism should also be created to ensure that the Secretary-General remained diplomatically neutral. That would help to prevent the escalation of tension in global hotspots, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations concerning the maintenance of international peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. M.D. LUNGU (Zambia) agreed with comments made about important issues such as regional representation, gender balance and the required qualities in a UN Secretary-General. The selection exercise had too long remained the preserve of the Security Council, particularly its five permanent members. The composition of the Security Council should be altered so as to address the UN Secretary-General appointments process, to contribute to the long-standing issue of United Nations reform, and to ensure representation from Africa among its membership.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands) said that he supported the *1 for 7 Billion* campaign. According to the Charter of the United Nations, the Secretary-General was the chief administrative officer of the Organization and was to perform such other functions as were assigned to him by the General Assembly and the Security Council. However, under Article 99, the UN Secretary-General also had discretion to bring certain matters to the attention of the Security Council, which extended beyond managerial duties. Three women skilfully performed the job of United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights: it should be eminently possible to find strong female candidates with the necessary qualifications for the position of Secretary-General. The criteria already mentioned were important, but the appointment should ultimately be decided on merit. The debate should be continued in parliaments around the world. Those debates should provide input so as to ensure that transparency and accountability took centre stage in the process.

The representative of BANGLADESH said that the most suitable person who had all the qualities previously mentioned must be appointed. He or she must bring those qualities to bear in working with parliamentarians and others to prevent conflict and address such challenges as nuclear disarmament, which was of particular concern for his country. The composition of the Security Council should be changed so that it was no longer dominated by powerful countries that held sway in decision-making processes. If that change happened, the Secretary-General would be better placed to ensure that the billions spent on nuclear weaponry were instead channelled towards implementation of the SDGs and measures for lifting children out of poverty.

The representative of BURKINA FASO said that general reform of the United Nations was essential to improve on past efforts to address global challenges. Gradual reform was to be favoured: it could perhaps be informed by the experiences of former UN Secretaries-General, and supported the idea of a non-renewable seven-year term of office: that would enable the Secretary-General to perform his or her functions without hindrance and so achieve the desired progress.

Ms. C. NABWALA MUKIITE (Kenya) said that she favoured appointment of the Secretary-General on the basis of geographical rotation. The successful candidate should be knowledgeable about issues affecting different areas of the globe, including Africa. Gender balance was key: IPU Members should nominate qualified women candidates for the position. A five-year renewable term of office was preferable: it ensured accountability and allowed performance to be evaluated. The role of the UN Secretary-General must be well defined. The appointee must be young, dynamic and flexible enough to pursue vital reform of the United Nations system. The Kenyan Parliament planned to consult with the Government about presenting a national candidate.

Mr. S. SPENGMANN (Canada) said that he agreed with Baroness Hooper on the issues of female candidates and the prospect of the next UN Secretary-General being a woman. Administrative reform of the United Nations was needed to address inefficiencies in its bureaucracy. Parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to understand importance to tax-payers of a more efficient and expeditious UN bureaucracy. He wondered how parliamentarians could best support the next UN Secretary-General in championing such reforms.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that the Security Council only had a limited membership with a strong political component. It had exceeded its functions and had effectively supplanted the General Assembly. Robust reform was therefore imperative. The General Assembly must decide which candidate should become UN Secretary-General and must also have oversight of his or her activities. For the sake of the 7 billion, the current selection process should be revised. Revisions should ensure that the work of the UN Secretary-General was not undermined and that no political price was otherwise incurred.

The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES said that the key issue was about what the international community wanted in a Secretary-General. The voices of small and less powerful countries must be heard at the United Nations. Selective implementation of United Nations resolutions and discriminatory treatment of countries and peoples should end. More attention should be paid to addressing the tragic after-effects of conflict on populations and economies. He hoped that the new Secretary-General would pursue United Nations reform, including by eliminating the influence of the powerful on the work of the Organization and continuing to strengthen the leading role of women. A woman should be selected as the next UN Secretary-General.

The representative of BAHRAIN said that the structure of the Security Council was a matter of concern. Its permanent membership remained intact despite the many political changes that had taken place worldwide since its establishment. In future, the position of UN Secretary-General could be alternated between women and men to achieve gender balance. The work of the incumbent should be subject to oversight by a dedicated body whose membership should include smaller countries. Indeed, the role of more powerful countries in overall decision-making should be reduced in order to take account of the views of the less powerful.

The representative of the PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA said that the United Nations should aim for greater transparency, openness and equality. The UN Secretary-General should lead and be accountable to all Member States. She or he should also coordinate activities and seek the necessary support for resolving problems and crises. Women tended to be natural economists and innovators with a propensity for solidarity. That augured well for a fresh perspective if a woman were to assume the leadership of the Organization. The UN Secretary-General should have a work plan with measurable indicators. A five-year term of office would allow the incumbent sufficient time to demonstrate the will to make progress.

Mr. K. KOSACHEV (Russian Federation), *panellist*, said that his view of the UN Secretary-General as fulfilling a managerial role was borne out by the Charter of the United Nations. Article 97 described the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer. Article 99 merely provided an option for the Secretary-General to bring certain matters to the attention of the Security Council. The Council was not obliged to act on information received in that way. Final decisions rested with the Security Council, not the Secretary-General.

Ms. Y. TERLINGEN, (representative of the 1 for 7 Billion campaign), *panellist*, said that the role of the UN Secretary-General had evolved greatly since the Charter of the United Nations had been written. The UN Secretary-General no longer had a purely managerial function. He was also involved in such important areas as conflict prevention, mediation, and efforts to address new global challenges. The UN Secretary-General was well placed to defend the values of the Charter by contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security, including through successful peacekeeping operations. Support for administrative reform was a crucial issue that was now receiving recognition. However, the UN Secretary-General could do nothing without the support of Member States. They should cast aside national interests in favour of efforts to rejuvenate the Organization and enhance its efficiency. That would allow the new UN Secretary-General to appoint a professional and well-qualified team that could achieve reform.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations) proposed two questions that parliamentarians might wish to consider submitting through the IPU to candidates standing for UN Secretary-General. The first question asked whether the candidate would advocate that Member States should encourage the close engagement of parliaments in the 2030 Agenda. The second question asked whether the candidate would ensure that there was a parliamentary focal point in all United Nations country offices, would guarantee that parliamentarians were a high priority and would be open to engagement with them.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada) proposed that a question should be asked about the role that parliamentarians might play in subsequent processes for the selection of the UN Secretary-General.

*The Committee agreed to those three proposals.*

The PRESIDENT thanked all those who had participated in the debate for their useful contributions.

### **Briefing: Institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The PRESIDENT recalled the IPU input to negotiations leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The immediate challenge was to ensure that the SDGs were institutionalized and informed national policy. The IPU had pledged to assist parliaments to fulfil their recognized role in delivering the ambitious new global development agenda. The Committee was set to become the hub for tracking implementation progress and evaluating the contribution of parliaments.

The briefing aimed to provide an overview of existing or planned review processes. That could help the Committee to decide how best to facilitate implementation of the SDGs. He introduced those who would make presentations: Mr. A. Motter, Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU; Ms. P. Torsney, Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations; Mr. L. Borbély, member of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies and Chairman of its Foreign Affairs Committee; and Mr. C. Chauvel, Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mr. A. MOTTER (Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU), *panellist*, gave a presentation about engaging parliaments on the implementation and review of the SDGs. The 17 SDGs and their 169 targets had the dual aim of poverty elimination and sustainable development. The SDGs were universal, interlinked and people-centred. They also integrated economic, social and environmental dimensions. They included new and innovative goals. For example, Goal 16 focused on governance and had over 10 associated targets. The important role of parliaments in fostering ownership, accountability and implementation of the SDGs was recognized in paragraphs 45, 52 and 79 of the 2030 Agenda. The IPU deserved credit for its part in ensuring that such language was included.

With regard to parliamentary action on implementing and reviewing the SDGs, he outlined key steps at the national level for localizing goals and targets, implementing national plans and reviewing progress against agreed indicators. At the regional level, there were opportunities to learn from countries, identify common trends and strategize as a region. At the global level, it was important to ensure that worldwide goals were on track, to contribute to the review mechanism (the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development) and to provide feedback to the present Committee, including through a self-assessment toolkit that had been developed by the IPU. To date, 22 countries had volunteered to provide national reviews and progress reports to the High-level Political Forum during 2016. Parliamentarians from those countries might wish to find out from the relevant national authorities how they could usefully participate in that process.

Other action that the IPU proposed to support implementation and review of the SDGs included the development of policy guidance, project work to promote the institutionalization of the SDGs in parliaments and measures to track progress in parliaments. The Committee would serve as the IPU hub for the parliamentary review of the SDGs. The majority of work would be done at the Committee's first session of the year, when it would hear reports on global progress; work to prepare parliaments for making their voluntary national contributions to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development; and measure progress made in certain parliaments by using the self-assessment toolkit and by conducting surveys.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the model parliamentary resolution on SDG follow-up in document EX/272/7(d)-Inf.1. He encouraged parliaments to follow the example of the parliaments of Mali and Trinidad and Tobago and to adopting the resolution. The delegations of Canada, Morocco, Norway and Sweden had already declared their intention to pursue the matter further. The 21 countries mentioned by Mr. Motter were also set to take the lead on SDG follow-up issues.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations), *panellist*, presented the self-assessment toolkit developed by the IPU for helping parliaments to contribute to achieving the SDGs. She said that the questions in the toolkit focused

on eight areas: building understanding; incorporating the SDGs into domestic law; mainstreaming the SDGs into parliamentary mechanisms; enacting laws in support of the SDGs; monitoring SDG implementation; engaging with the public; and ensuring that the SDGs served the most vulnerable. Parliamentarians should test the 26-page toolkit and provide feedback within the coming month. That could then be taken into account before the toolkit was published in both English and French, in May 2016.

Mr. L. BORBÉLY (Romania), *panellist*, speaking about the regional dimension of the follow-up process, said that his country's Parliament had actively promoted a robust parliamentary dimension in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. It had hosted the first IPU regional seminar on the subject. It was set to host a second on governance-related Goal 16 and on education as the key enabler for all SDGs.

Finding practical ways of mainstreaming the SDGs into everyday parliamentary work should be guided by two fundamental factors. On the one hand, there was country ownership, government accountability and national policy as the key ingredients for implementation. And on the other, strengthening the legislative, oversight and representative roles of parliament should be the focus. Parliamentary committees and processes should coherently pursue all SDGs by adapting the committee structure, revising parliamentary procedures and providing appropriate training for parliamentary staff. Training measures were already under way in the Romanian Parliament.

Parliamentary work to implement the SDGs could often be taken at the national level. That included work aimed at: building political will across party lines to support the SDGs; increasing public awareness and support; advocating for a national SDG coordination mechanism with opportunities for parliamentary contributions; lobbying for a new or revised national sustainable development strategy; revising legislation in line with that strategy; holding government to account for the implementation of the strategy; allocating adequate budgetary resources for implementation; developing national statistical capacities in order to ensure evidence-based decision-making; monitoring progress on the SDGs; bringing SDG-related processes to the attention of the public and the media (possibly with the help of an IPU handbook on the subject); closely following the national review processes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (to be conducted by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development); and engaging in inter-parliamentary exchanges of experience and best practices. Parliaments also had an important role to play in ensuring that international commitments on the SDGs were fulfilled by: making certain that development cooperation policies and programmes supported the implementation of the SDGs; providing an enabling environment for private-sector investments; and promoting SDG-oriented reform of the global financial, monetary and trade systems.

In order to maximize synergies and ensure effective parliamentary support for the SDGs, they should be mainstreamed into the work of the IPU. One way of doing that was to integrate them into the next IPU Strategy. The self-assessment toolkit would provide an important contribution. The IPU should also aim to help parliaments to mainstream the SDGs into their daily work. It should provide guidance to parliaments about SDG-related activities in the context of legislative, oversight and budgetary processes and in relation to interacting with citizens and civil society. The IPU should establish a global parliamentary mechanism for tracking, monitoring and evaluating progress on the SDGs. It should explore methods of providing parliamentary input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Parliaments should be made aware of the need to closely follow the High-level Political Forum national review processes and outcomes, and to build a parliamentary perspective for the High-level Political Forum thematic reviews.

The IPU might wish to focus its action on: Goal 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels); Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality, empower all women and girls); Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries); and Goal 13 (Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts). Only by working together would it be possible to change public understanding of sustainable development and the SDGs. Parliamentarians must therefore become pioneers by correctly understanding the SDGs and creating the tools for their implementation. That would lead to better lives, both now and in future.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group United Nations Development Programme – UNDP), *panellist*, gave a presentation about ways in which the United Nations system could support parliaments in the follow-up, review and accountability process. He said that the integration of economic, social and environmental criteria into the SDGs should be considered when supporting national implementation efforts. A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework was required. That would

help countries to maximize and track progress, promote accountability, and exchange best practices. National implementation frameworks tended to have a number of guiding principles. Many placed particular emphasis on inclusiveness, the human rights-based approach and supporting the most vulnerable in society. Quality disaggregated data was also required. It should be robust, reliable, publicly available and timely, bearing in mind the significance of data in policymaking and monitoring progress. Statistical offices and audit institutions were therefore key actors in the review process. Parliaments were also particularly important stakeholders: the United Nations system and governments were not yet fully aware of that fact. Parliamentary engagement increased national ownership and served as a platform for developing national discussions and debates, forming consensus, and allowing for formal input from citizens and civil society organizations.

He provided information on a UNDP toolkit, which was intended to determine whether parliaments had the means to monitor, evaluate and promote understanding of various aspects of governments' integrated economic and social planning. For parliaments that might need it, the toolkit could give guidance on further development that might be required and how it could be achieved. The IPU must continue its efforts to ensure that parliaments were viewed as legitimate players in universal periodic review processes and that the parliamentary perspective was clearly presented in the light of a human rights-based approach to the SDGs.

He drew attention to MyWorld 2030, the United Nations global survey for monitoring SDG progress, building accountability and creating dialogue between citizens and decision-makers. Despite surveys such as those, the significance of parliaments as stakeholders had still not been fully recognized. He also drew attention to MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support). The United Nations Development Group had created that mnemonic to articulate the factors that UN bodies should take into account when helping countries to implement the SDGs. Products that UNDP intended to deliver in 2016 included: guidance about mainstreaming the SDGs; guidance for national reporting on the SDGs; an SDG-based analytical toolkit and an enabling partnership for accelerating sustainable development; guidance on how to roll out tools and strategies for advocacy and public engagement on the SDGs. The United Nations system was actively engaged in implementing the SDGs in numerous ways. It was committed to ensuring that parliaments had a place in that process. Parliaments and the United Nations must work together to ensure that that commitment was maintained on both sides.

Mr. K. WASINONDH (Thailand) commended the informative presentations on an important issue in which parliaments had a significant supporting role to play. He said that parliaments could drive forward progress towards achieving the SDGs. He was surprised that Thailand was not among the countries that had volunteered to contribute to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. As chairman of the Group of 77 for 2016, Thailand was actively engaged in supporting the members of the Group as they implemented the SDGs. For example, Thailand regularly shared its successful experiences of applying the sufficiency economy philosophy in response to a national crisis in 1997. The philosophy was based on moderation in development. It might be useful to parliamentarians as an approach to meeting the challenges of implementing the SDGs. Cooperation between United Nations agencies and parliaments would also be useful. He would be encouraging that sort of cooperation in his region. The institutional arrangements were already in place in Thailand for overseeing, supporting and tracking progress relating to the implementation of the SDGs. The Thai Parliament would also contribute by legislating, allocating budget resources and providing essential guidance.

Ms. M.T. KUBAYI (South Africa) said that the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) had laid the foundations for effective action on the SDGs. Where the MDGs had not been achieved, it had often been due to a lack of resources. Official development assistance was therefore imperative in order to make progress towards implementing the SDGs. Parliaments had an important part to play: they should establish dedicated oversight committees, engage citizens and include minority groups, youth, women and persons with disabilities in the process. Parliaments should also adopt a proactive approach and ensure that governments kept them informed of their SDG-related development plans. Relevant capacity-building and training were also vital. They would allow parliaments to address the challenges involved achieving the SDGs.

Mr. N. CHEIKHI (Morocco) said that there was an urgent need to incorporate the principles of sustainability into national socio-economic development plans. In order to fulfil its international commitments, his country had taken action to implement political, institutional, legislative, socio-economic and environmental reforms, including by implementing a national charter on the environment and sustainable development. With efficiency in mind, he cautioned against

establishing a plethora of parliamentary mechanisms dedicated to the follow-up of government policies. That task could be performed by existing committees. He welcomed the agreement to a Moroccan proposal that social justice should be theme of the next IPU Strategy. He looked forward to continuing the present discussion at a parliamentary event to be organized by the IPU in Marrakech in the margins of the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that he applauded the inclusive consultative process that had preceded the adoption of the SDGs. Parliamentarians owed it to their constituents to ensure the SDGs were implemented, by transposing the SDGs into domestic law and drawing up national development plans. Parliamentarians could make a pivotal contribution to the process by, for example, overseeing implementation by the executive, raising public awareness of the benefits of the SDGs, leading public opinion, shaping debates on the subject, and allocating necessary resources. Efforts must also be made to engage development partners in capacity-building, monitoring and evaluation exercises. Africa's lack of representation on the UN Security Council did not help Africans to articulate their hopes and aspirations for development. That could have a negative impact on progress towards implementing the SDGs on the continent.

The representative of FRANCE expressed her regret that presentation slides had been in English only. However, she said that parliaments were to be congratulated on the positive outcome of their input into the negotiations that had led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Their efforts had resulted in the first international instrument to include a component relating specifically to governance. The role of parliaments in implementing the SDGs had been well illustrated when the present Assembly unanimously adopted its resolution on giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status. That issue was directly relevant to SDG 16.9 (*By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration*). She welcomed the fact that SDG implementation would be a regular item on the Committee's agenda.

Ms. A.R. ALBASTI (United Arab Emirates), said that, in terms of obstacles to SDG implementation, conflict remained the greatest threat to human development, followed by poverty and hunger, lack of primary education, gender inequality, and the urban-rural divide. In order to contribute to tackling those obstacles, parliaments should: ensure full cooperation with their respective national governments; establish parliamentary committees on the environment, climate change and sustainable development; allocate specific budgetary resources to SDG implementation; and issue an IPU declaration of commitment to the post-2015 process.

Ms. C. NABWALA MUKIITE (Kenya) said that the SDGs had been mainstreamed into her country's long-term socio-economic planning and that public expectations were already high. Achievement of the SDGs by 2030 depended on their incorporation into domestic law, which called for partnership between executives and parliaments. The Kenyan strategy and road map for implementing the SDGs by 2030 was currently being finalized. The various committees of the Kenyan Parliament would play a critical role in allocating budgets for, and monitoring the implementation of, SDG programmes. There were a number of SDG-related activities already under way in such areas as poverty eradication, health and well-being. However, the challenges for developing countries were already clear: raising the necessary funds for SDG implementation in the face of dwindling donor support would be difficult. In addition, terrorist attacks in Kenya had to some extent distracted focus away from the development agenda.

The representative of MALI said that the Malian National Assembly had adopted a resolution on the SDGs and established a committee to follow up on the resolution. An action plan was also being drafted. He wished to know whether the IPU could provide training for his country's parliamentarians in order to improve their understanding of the SDG process.

Mr. L. BARREDO MEDINA (Cuba) said that many countries had been unable to achieve the MDGs on their own. He asked what follow-up mechanisms were in place under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to ensure that development financing was channelled to the appropriate countries to support SDG implementation.

Mr. A. MOTTER (Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs IPU), *panellist*, confirmed that the IPU could provide technical assistance and capacity-building to the National Assembly of Mali. He suggested the National Assembly should use the self-assessment toolkit to provide information for that purpose and that Mali might be a case study from which others could learn.

France and Morocco had volunteered to conduct national reviews of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They might wish to ascertain from their national authorities how their respective parliaments could engage in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Any information that they could subsequently provide about such matters as the inclusiveness and impact of that process would be invaluable. He encouraged them to participate in the Forum in New York in July as members of their national delegations. While regretting that Thailand was not among the countries listed, he said that Thailand was to be commended for its SDG-related efforts and the pursuit of its sufficiency economy philosophy. Concerning the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, it had been reported that the follow-up mechanisms were not overly robust, and that it was not necessarily guaranteed that decisions taken would be implemented. A new body had been set up called the United Nations Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up. It was not yet known how stringent the monitoring of financing would be with respect to the SDGs.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group United Nations Development Programme – UNDP), *panellist*, said that parallel work on statistics and data was under way in an attempt to aggregate the estimated cost of achieving the SDGs. It was essential that donors were held to account.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Borbély and Mr. Chauvel for their participation in the interactive debate on such an important issue.

*The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.*

## Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

**SUNDAY, 20 MARCH**

(Morning)

*The sitting was called to order at 10.15 a.m. with Ms. M. Dziva (Zimbabwe) in the Chair.*

### **Adoption of the agenda**

*The agenda was adopted.*

### **Election of members of the Board of the Forum**

The CHAIR said that four seats remained vacant on the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. They were to be filled by a woman and a man, both from the Eurasia Group, a woman from the Twelve Plus Group, and a man from the Arab Group. The following candidatures had been received: Mr. A.U. Damirbek (Kyrgyzstan) from the Eurasia Group, and Mr. S.S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates) from the Arab Group. No nominations had been received from the Twelve Plus Group.

*The Forum approved the candidates mentioned above.*

### **Contribution to the work of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The CHAIR invited members of the Forum to share their views from a youth perspective on the topic of the general debate, *Rejuvenating Democracy: Giving Voice to Youth*.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU*, said that the theme of the current Assembly reflected the importance that the IPU attached to the work of the Forum. She encouraged members to contribute to the General Debate.

Given the fact that half of the global population was under the age of 30, young people's loss of faith in formal politics and processes posed a significant problem. If youth engagement continued to plummet, democracy itself would be in trouble. There was an urgent need to regain young people's trust and provide them with a sense of belonging. Young parliamentarians could help rebuild young people's faith in politicians and political processes. Youth participation was also a way changing the political landscape, bringing in new perspectives and approaches, and ultimately ensuring better and more inclusive law-making for all.

Current global challenges had the greatest impact on the young, who were disproportionately affected by issues such as climate change, unemployment and migration. Recent economic crises had also led to cuts in budgetary allocations for education and job creation programmes. The shift that the IPU brought in the approach to young people across the world was to be welcomed. Attitudes were increasingly based on representation rather than consultation. As stakeholders in the decision-making process, young people should be able to contribute in the way that they felt was most appropriate.

A recent IPU survey on youth representation had made a number of key findings. A demographic discrepancy in parliamentary representation meant that, although young people under 30 years of age made up half of the global population, only 1.9 per cent of members of parliament were under 30. One positive sign was that, although men outnumbered women in all age groups, the male to female ratio among the youngest MPs stood at 60:40. Nevertheless, it was important to keep a close eye on whether those young women remained in parliament once they entered their thirties, when the balance between work and family life had a significant impact on their careers. Where they were used, quotas contributed to increasing the number of young people in parliament. Nevertheless, quotas mainly benefited an increase in the proportion of members of parliament in their 40s, and had little impact on those under the age of 30.

Electoral systems also had a significant impact. More young people were elected in countries with proportional representation systems than in those with mixed or majoritarian systems. The use of quotas would further increase youth participation in parliamentary politics.

Only a quarter of youth committees were chaired by young members of parliament. Youth issues were often addressed by committees that covered other fields, such as sport, women's issues, social affairs or education. Young people were also frequently outnumbered on such committees. There also appeared to be an inverse correlation between the size of a country's population and the number of young members of parliament, reflecting a fundamental inequality in politics and a failure to respect young people's rights.

In order to enhance youth participation, politics should be modernized. New technology should also be used to engage the young; and there was an urgent need to ensure that more young people were elected to leadership positions. It was essential to introduce quotas, and review age restrictions on voting in elections and running for public office. Political parties needed to take youth participation more seriously. They should implement special strategies to support very young candidates and women. Failure to make the necessary changes could be catastrophic. Members of the Forum should take up those issues with their delegations.

Mr. D. SWISLOW, *Senior Partnerships Officer*, National Democratic Institute - NDI, provided an overview of his organization, which worked with governments, civil society groups and other stakeholders so as to strengthen democracy. The National Democratic Institute supported national legislative bodies in their efforts to improve transparency, and was helping to draft global standards on open parliaments. The organization sought to create a large community that worked on issues relating to democracy, and to build partnerships in order to solve problems. One of the activities of the Institute was to create tailored technological tools that would help parliaments to respond more effectively to the needs of their citizens and the demands of the twenty-first century.

There was a crisis of trust in parliaments, and an increasingly connected and technologically savvy world created additional challenges for legislatures. Citizens now had access to new ways of expressing themselves and new ways of filing complaints with parliamentary bodies. There was a greater public demand for accountability and openness from parliaments, and legislatures needed to keep up with the changing political and social landscape. Less than a quarter of parliaments throughout the world were investing in new technology to interact with their citizens and provide them with information. Such interaction was key to solving the crisis of trust.

The National Democratic Institute could not provide all the solutions. However, it had observed that some parliaments were experimenting with various approaches to tackling current problems. For example, in Brazil, the *Hackerlab* initiative provided citizens with programming skills and the chance to work with members of parliament to create new applications. In the Czech Republic, the national parliament was cooperating with civil society on different ways of publishing and analyzing data, as part of efforts to explain how parliament operated.

As the writer William Gibson had once said, “the future is already here; it’s just not very evenly distributed”. Parliaments were short on time and resources. Software was expensive, and members of parliament often lacked the necessary technical skills to make full use of it. However, technical tools could prove invaluable in outreach campaigns, video debates, and the organization of various civil society and parliamentary groups. Not all political office holders and public servants had computer programming skills. The National Democratic Institute had therefore developed DemTools, a set of six information technology tools designed to help government processes to operate more effectively. Parliaments could contact the Institute for help in building open-source solutions that were tailored to their needs.

One of the tools in DemTools was called *Issues*. It was a web platform for debate, which functioned as an online town hall meeting and allowed citizens to post questions. A second tool, *Civi*, which was currently being tested in Ukraine, allowed members of parliament to keep track of their work with constituents. For members of parliament seeking to mobilize citizens, the *Petitions* tool could be useful. It was similar to a tool used by the White House, and facilitated the submission and processing of online petitions.

The CHAIR said that technology was important to the work of parliaments. She invited the Forum to consider and comment on three issues: the means and methods of enhancing youth participation in parliament, the meaning of ‘rejuvenating democracy’, and how young members of parliament could most effectively contribute to rejuvenating democracy.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that his country did not have a good track record on youth representation. However, the fact that the youngest member of the UK Parliament was a 21-year-old woman gave some hope for the future. There was certainly a need to change the culture of his country’s Parliament and progress was already being made on that front. For example, the use of the House of Commons chamber by the UK Youth Parliament for its annual meetings no longer caused controversy. An e-petitions procedure had also been introduced, whereby petitions with more than 100,000 signatures would be debated in Parliament. In spite of those developments, it was nonetheless a cause for concern that the UK Parliament was effectively an analogue institution in a digital age. Although online platforms for contacting members of parliament existed, members were bombarded with questions and were unable to respond quickly enough. Delayed responses weakened the connection between elected representatives and the electorate.

The representative of MOROCCO said that people expected parliamentarians to be established, experienced individuals of a certain age. Young parliamentarians needed to change that problematic perception. They had to serve as role models and break the mould of conventional politics. The media had a key role to play in terms of providing support and acknowledging the role that young members of parliament played in politics.

The representative of SUDAN stressed that the public needed to understand what parliamentary work involved. It was important to raise public awareness of that work, and to collaborate with universities and student groups. Negative stereotypes were a serious challenge that must be overcome, and members of parliament had a responsibility to change public perceptions. The work done by the Arab League on that subject could be a useful example.

Young people faced economic and social challenges. It was important to support them and promote their independence. Alongside legislative change, quotas were an important part of increasing youth representation.

In about a decade, the current crop of young parliamentarians would no longer be classed as young. With that in mind, it was important to draw on the experience of older colleagues. It was also important to maintain contact with fellow young members of parliament and young people in general, in order to better understand their needs.

The representative of CANADA said that positive change was always possible, and it was important to remain optimistic. Members of parliament needed to remain open and accessible to the people, through outreach programmes in schools, town hall meetings, and question-and-answer sessions. It was essential to focus on authenticity, honesty and principled decisions. Politicians should concentrate on making a difference and strive for integrity, rather than focusing on their electoral prospects. Tools and technology was simply a way of getting their message to the people.

The representative of ZIMBABWE said that the young were not only the leaders of tomorrow, but of today. Awareness-raising campaigns could help young people to understand their roles and responsibilities, and the importance of participating in the decision-making process. For example, ministers could dedicate a weekly session to answering questions on youth issues. At the forthcoming meeting in Geneva, each country should report on what had been done to rejuvenate democracy, in order to assess progress made.

The representative of DENMARK said that parliaments must work to change the whole political culture, as well as adopting new tools. They must dare to experiment and innovate, and to use the tools and knowledge at their disposal, so as to ensure that all voices were heard, and that people were engaged in issues of interest to them.

The representative of THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA said that restrictions on youth participation should be addressed by amending existing legislation. That would allow the voting age and the minimum age for holding political office to be reduced.

The representative of NAMIBIA said that young people did not feel that they were being represented, and had lost faith in democracy. There was a lack of communication between members of parliament and young people, and the young no longer felt that they had the power to make a difference. It was therefore essential to foster their active participation in the decision-making process. Parliaments had to be open and accessible. Corruption and a lack of transparency were serious problems, as was the low level of trust in democratic institutions.

The representative of PALESTINE suggested that a special workshop should be organized to discuss the issues that had been raised by colleagues. Parliaments needed to update their structures and procedures. Governments must demonstrate that there was political will to achieve that update, and acknowledge the role that young people played. The IPU should insist that all national delegations have a minimum number of young members of parliament.

The representative of the MALDIVES said that efforts must be made to engage young people. In the Maldives, there were many young members of parliament. The voting age and the minimum age for holding political office were both 18.

Parliaments must work hard to ensure that more young people were re-elected. Young members of parliament needed to make use of the media to raise awareness about what they were doing in parliament and about what people could do to help them be re-elected.

Quotas were the easiest way of increasing youth representation. However, it was also important for parliaments to work hard to regain people's trust, to make time for constituents, and to truly represent all citizens, including older members of society.

In the Maldives, young voters made up half of the electorate and the youngest member of parliament had been elected at the age of 22. It was possible to achieve the objective of increasing youth participation.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that, with regard to youth participation, the "nothing about us without us" philosophy should be embraced. Young people must be involved in the decision-making process. In South Africa, young people had a platform to express their concerns, there was a high level of sectoral engagement, and a young people's parliament existed.

New technology promoted change, and helped parliament to take up issues that were important to young people. With reference to William Gibson's observation ("the future is already here; it's just not very evenly distributed"), it was vital to ensure even distribution and active participation in order to create the future, and to allow young people to take up issues that concerned them.

The representative of SINGAPORE said that young people did not view politics in a positive light, and that parliaments needed to find new ways to engage their interest. The young were committed to specific causes, where they felt they could make a difference. Parliaments needed to change the way in which they sought to inspire, engage and empower people. For example, the representative himself held question-and-answer sessions in pubs and other places frequented by young people. The young needed to feel that their views and ideas were discussed in parliament, and that they were contributing to change. In Singapore, a youth corps had been established to encourage the nation's youth to volunteer and feel part of society.

The representative of MALI said that young people needed autonomy and positions of responsibility in parliament.

The representative of SIERRA LEONE said that it was important to establish a youth-friendly legal framework, and to align the minimum voting age with the age at which one could run for political office. Quotas should be introduced to enhance the participation of women and young people. They could also address context-specific legal barriers, such as those related to the registration process for youth organizations. Parliaments, political parties and civil society organizations could review the domestic legal framework and make proposals for change. International organizations and other bodies needed to support the legislative review process, conduct research on establishing an enabling legal framework and provide technical assistance.

The representative of BURUNDI said that, in her country, transparent elections had finally been held after a very difficult period. She was currently the youngest member of parliament in Burundi and understood how it felt to be marginalized and underestimated. Young people were a vulnerable group, and often felt forgotten. It was therefore imperative to encourage young people to participate in political life. Seminars and training opportunities should be organized that provided people with the right skills, confidence and sense of independence to build their own future.

The representative of SOMALIA said that it was important to implement youth-friendly policies. Political parties needed to set up youth committees, and integrate a youth perspective into their work. Quotas were needed to ensure better representation in parliament, and in regional government. Governments needed to adopt effective policies and monitor their implementation. Capacity-building measures would also enhance the participation of young parliamentarians.

The representative of SAN MARINO said that, in his country, few barriers existed to youth participation in parliament. Over thirty per cent (36.7%) of members of parliament were under the age of 40. In order to rejuvenate democracy, it was important to address the problem of unemployment. Young people had lost hope, and it was vital to tackle that problem. Young people also viewed politics as a corrupt environment. Therefore, young parliamentarians needed to stress the importance of legitimacy, loyalty and respect for the law, and to seek to serve young constituents in their respective countries.

The representative of NIGERIA said that the inverse correlation between the average age of the population and representation in parliament was linked to legal restrictions on youth participation in politics. Parliaments therefore needed to consider reducing the minimum age at which people could run for public office. Young people also needed a platform and adequate support to express their views. In that regard, the 2010 IPU resolution *Youth participation in the democratic process* had played a very important role. The work of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians was also important, as was the advocacy work of national networks of young parliamentarians. Parliaments needed to try different approaches, and put pressure on governments to engage with young people. An exchange of information between national parliaments would be useful in order to provide an overview of the measures being taken to support young people. Enhanced advocacy measures were required. Improving the participation of young people in parliamentary politics would make it easier for the voice of the young in society to be heard.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that, during the debate, members had stressed that rejuvenating democracy required enhanced youth representation in parliament and a greater level of engagement with young people in society. The recommendations made had been noted. In future, the Forum's agenda would include an opportunity for members to report back on developments in their countries. It might be necessary to increase the length of the Forum meeting to allow all members to make their reports.

Members had highlighted the need for quotas to enhance participation, and for measures to align the minimum voting age with the minimum age at which one could stand for election. It would be beneficial to introduce youth quotas for IPU delegations. Young parliamentarians played an important role in the IPU: members of the Forum should apply for vacancies on IPU committees and participate in the Organization's activities, including by contributing to the General Debate. The Secretariat would draw up proposals and report back to the Forum by October 2016.

Mr. D. SWISLOW, *Senior Partnerships Officer*, National Democratic Institute - NDI, observed that citizens in general, and young people in particular, had a poor opinion of parliaments. The young were more interested in specific causes, rather than traditional politics, and were not as well connected to the political system or well-organized movements.

The capacity of parliaments to listen and respond to citizens was an important issue. There were a growing number of ways – including through tweets, e-mails or online petitions – for citizens to contact parliaments but very few innovative ways for parliamentarians to reply. The public had extremely high expectations, and parliaments needed to experiment in order to find the best solution.

Tools, including software solutions, could articulate messages about parliaments' future plans and past achievements. It was essential to get young people involved in bringing the legislative system into the twenty-first century.

### **Update and discussion on the Forum's work plan and activities (2015–2016)**

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the IPU was currently drafting a new strategy for 2017–2021, focusing on strong democratic parliaments that served the people. A preliminary draft would be circulated, and the input of members was encouraged. The final draft was due to be prepared for adoption at the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly in October 2016. Youth participation was included in the draft mission statement, in which the IPU stressed its commitment to youth empowerment. It was also referred to under the second strategic objective, which focused on advancing gender equality and youth empowerment.

Youth empowerment was one of two subsidiary objectives in that paragraph; the other was gender equality. She asked members to consider whether linking those issues was positive or negative. She stressed that placing gender and youth under one objective did not necessarily mean that they would be managed in the same way, or that the same level of resources would be allocated to them.

As discussed by the Board of the Forum that same morning, youth issues were frequently considered with others topics, such as sport, unemployment or gender. The Secretariat welcomed members' comments and suggestions on the whole draft strategy, and particularly on grouping youth representation with gender equality. The new IPU strategy would influence the Forum's work for the following years, and it was important for members to have their say.

The representative of PALESTINE did not agree with separating the two issues, as youth was a cross-cutting issue.

The representatives of ALGERIA, BHUTAN, BURKINA FASO, JORDAN, MALI, NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA (UNITED REPUBLIC OF), UGANDA, and ZAMBIA said that the issues of women and youth should be separated. Youth empowerment was a new issue and should be managed differently compared to gender equality.

The representative of ZAMBIA proposed conducting a review of past strategies to identify achievements and assess progress. It would be useful to see how effective the previous strategy had been, and what features should be integrated in future. For example, it would be helpful to know which of the previous objectives had been met, and which countries had successfully increased the number of young people in parliament. How many young people had been re-elected? Had parliaments been able to successfully retain young members of parliament? If not, then perhaps objectives relating to those issues should be included in the new strategy.

The CHAIR took note that the Forum wished youth issues to be a separate objective in the new strategy.

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM gave an overview of other events and activities taking place during the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. She drew attention to two of the Standing Committees, which would be debating resolutions on terrorism, and on cultural heritage. Members of the Forum were encouraged to contribute to those debates. Surveys were currently being carried out on parliamentary oversight, violence against women in parliaments and innovative ways for parliaments to connect with young people. The plan was to collect information and draft guidelines on how parliaments could better reach out to young people. Members were also encouraged to take part in the debate on e-parliaments. It was important for the Forum to inform the work of other decision-making bodies by providing a youth perspective. There was also an event on reducing the nuclear threat, which was part of the follow-up to the 2014 IPU resolution, *Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: The contribution of Parliaments*. It was important for young people to contribute to that debate.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament - PNND), encouraged members to attend the side event on reducing the nuclear threat in order to add a youth perspective to the debate.

### **Preparations for the 135<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The CHAIR encouraged members to contribute to the debate on the IPU draft resolution *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. Mr. S.S. Alremeithi (United Arab Emirates) had been appointed to draft a report on that subject on behalf of the Forum.

*The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.*

## Adoption of Resolutions, final documents and reports

### SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

(Afternoon)

*The sitting was called to order at 4 p.m. with Mr. P. Matibini (Zambia), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

#### Item 4 of the agenda

#### **Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights**

*(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)*

(A/134/4-DR)

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), *Rapporteur*, said that the Standing Committee had considered the draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum submitted by the two co-Rapporteurs, Ms. C. Guittet (France) and Mr. K. Hari Babu (India). There had been 86 proposed amendments, submitted by 17 Member Parliaments and the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians. The Committee had worked efficiently and cooperatively to agree the text. The resolution emphasized the need for enhanced international cooperation and recommended a series of measures that parliaments should take. It would be possible to end terrorism if those measures were implemented across the world. They included exchanging information and good practices among parliaments; authorizing the collection of data about airline passengers before they travelled by the authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences; promoting international cooperation between security forces, intelligence services and customs and immigration authorities; and establishing cultural dialogues designed to prevent extremism. The text submitted to the Assembly had been approved by consensus in the Standing Committee, with one reservation expressed by the delegation of India. The title of the resolution had been amended to replace “individual rights” with “human rights” and now read *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights*.

*The draft resolution was adopted by consensus.*

Mr. R.K. SINGH (India) expressed his delegation’s reservation about the use of the term “right to a private life” in operative paragraph 10 of the resolution.

#### Item 5 of the Agenda

#### **Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity**

*(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade)*

(A/134/5-DR)

Mr. A. CISSÉ (Mali), *Rapporteur*, introduced the draft resolution and an explanatory memorandum, which had been prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs, Mr. A. Destexhe (Belgium) and Mr. H. Kouskous (Morocco). The Standing Committee had revised the draft resolution over two meetings. It had considered 169 proposed amendments submitted by 16 Member Parliaments, and had worked productively, cooperatively and efficiently. The Standing Committee had approved the draft resolution by consensus and was submitting it to the Assembly for adoption.

*The draft resolution was adopted unanimously.*

#### Item 6 of the agenda

#### **Reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights and the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs**

Ms. A. KING (New Zealand), *Acting President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that a new President would be elected from the African Group at the Committee’s next meeting, since the former President of the Standing Committee was no longer a

Member of Parliament. Mr. P. Wangchuck (Bhutan) and Mr. J. Lação (Portugal) had been elected to the Bureau. A further four seats on the Bureau would be filled at the Standing Committee's next meeting.

The Standing Committee had held two interactive debates. The title of the first debate had been *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective*. During an introductory panel debate, panellists had given their personal perspectives on issues such as whether there could be a true partnership between men and women that could foster gender equality; how far political parties were resistant to creating more space for women; and whether parliaments had a culture of promoting gender equality and rejecting sexist behaviour. The second debate had been entitled *Open parliaments: Building an association on accountability*. There had been a panel discussion on the subject and a short but lively debate.

*The Assembly took note of the report.*

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), *President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee had elected three new Bureau members: Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation), Ms. A.R. Albasti (United Arab Emirates) and Mr. A.I. Al-Mansour (Sudan). Mr. Al-Mansour had been elected Vice-President of the Committee.

The Standing Committee's first session had been an opportunity to comment on the new process for the appointment of the United Nations Secretary-General. A Secretariat background note had detailed the history of the appointment process. Most participants had expressed support for a more open and transparent selection process that included all Member States. There had been strong support for the participation of female candidates. Three questions had been formulated and would be sent to the candidates for Secretary-General: would they advocate parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? What would they do to strengthen the relationships between the United Nations and national parliaments, and the United Nations and the IPU? How could parliamentarians play a role, through the IPU, in ensuring a more democratic selection process for the post of United Nations Secretary-General?

The Standing Committee's second sitting had included a briefing on the institutional arrangements for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Several participants had underscored the importance of strengthening the capacity of parliaments to contribute to meeting the Goals. The Committee had agreed that it would use its first sessions of the year to take stock of global progress towards meeting the SDGs; prepare the parliaments concerned for the voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum; prompt parliaments to assess their own capacity to achieve the SDGs; and showcase best practices in implementation processes.

*The Assembly took note of the report.*

#### Item 7 of the agenda

### **Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade for the 136<sup>th</sup> Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs**

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), *Rapporteur for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee had chosen the title of the subject item for its next resolution: *The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States*. It had been proposed by the Russian Federation. The co-Rapporteurs would be Mr. K. Kosachev (Russian Federation) and Ms. S. Koukouma-Koutra (Cyprus).

Mr. A. CISSÉ (Mali), *Rapporteur for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, said that the Standing Committee had chosen the title of the subject item for its next resolution: *Promoting enhanced international cooperation on the SDGs, in particular on the financial inclusion of women as a driver of development*. It had appointed two co-Rapporteurs: Ms. G. Cuevas (Mexico) and Ms. P. Mahajan (India). It had also approved the Bureau's proposal to hold a debate at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly entitled: *The role of parliaments in countering the activities of vulture funds*.

*The Assembly agreed to those proposals.*

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had elected three new members to the Bureau: Mr. K. Albakkar (Jordan), Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico) and Ms. B. Amongi (Uganda). Ms. Rojas would serve as President and Mr. D. Pacheco (Portugal) as Vice-President. He expressed the Standing Committee's appreciation of the work of the outgoing President, Mr. R. Tau (South Africa), of his excellent leadership and his good humour during his tenure.

Mr. A. CISSÉ (Mali) informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade had elected members to its Bureau in line with the proposals put forward by the geopolitical groups. Ms. S. Tioulong (Cambodia) had been elected as President, and Mr. A. Cissé (Mali) as Vice-President.

*The Assembly took note of the elections to the two Standing Committees.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General Debate: *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*** (A/134/3-DR)

Ms. G.K.T. KOKORWE (Botswana) and Mr. O. YANAR (Finland) jointly presented the draft outcome document of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*. They said that the draft underscored the importance of democracy as both a set of values and a system of institutions for putting those values into practice. Everyone had the right to be heard. While there was no single model of democracy, the principles of democracy were universal. Democracy must be flexible so that it could change with the times and reflect the societies that nourished it. Two of the key challenges currently facing democracies around the world were the gradual decrease in voter turnout, and the increasing disengagement of young people from political processes.

Youth disengagement should not be attributed to apathy. Young people used many platforms to engage in democracy. However, institutions had not kept up with a fast-changing and increasingly interconnected world. More than half of the world's population was under 30 years of age. Failure to address their disengagement would undermine the legitimacy of governments and parliaments. The time had come for a democratic renaissance, which should start by giving a voice to young people. Parliamentarians had a duty to create an enabling environment in order to guarantee young people's participation and galvanize their leadership.

Through the outcome document, Member Parliaments of the IPU would pledge to increase youth representation in parliaments, enhance inclusivity, adapt parliaments to the evolving needs of society and individuals, modernize institutions, and change the way politics was done. They would renew and refresh the profile of those who held political office so that decision-making bodies were more representative of social and political diversity. Parliamentary processes would be reformed to make them more sensitive to the needs of younger people. The use of modern technologies would be encouraged in order to enhance transparency and accountability. Political empowerment would be promoted through school curricula. Parliamentary committees on youth would be established. Networks of young parliamentarians would be set up to articulate the consolidated views of young people in parliamentary work and to open up parliamentary deliberations to them. Young representatives would be included in parliamentary delegations to international forums, particularly in the context of the IPU. All parliaments had a duty to rejuvenate democracy to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. That must be done by harnessing the creativity, energy and enthusiasm of citizens. The time had come to take action.

*The outcome document was adopted.*

## Closure of the Assembly

Mr. K. AL MAAWALI (Oman), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, said that the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly had been a resounding success. There had been many productive discussions on the important issue of rejuvenating democracy and giving voice to youth. He thanked the President of the IPU, the Secretary General and all those who had facilitated the smooth running of the Assembly. He expressed particular gratitude to the host authorities in Zambia for their generous hospitality. The Arab Group condemned the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Belgium during the course of the Assembly. He hoped that the global community could work together to overcome terrorism by addressing its root causes and cutting off its funding sources.

Ms. A. RASHEED (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, thanked the President and Secretariat of the IPU for making the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly such a success. She also expressed her deep gratitude to the people, Government and Parliament of Zambia for having hosted the Assembly and provided such warm hospitality. Lusaka had been a home away from home for all participants. She highlighted the tireless work being done by the IPU to increase the number of women in parliament all over the world and to ensure that the voices of young people were heard. Gender equality and youth participation in decision-making processes were the key to ensuring that human rights were guaranteed in parliament. Discussions throughout the Assembly had motivated and mobilized participants. The time had come for all of them to return home, and spread that motivation, so that parliaments could continue to improve and democracies continue to gain in strength.

Mr. R. LEÓN (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, expressed gratitude to Zambia for hosting. His group condemned the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Brussels, and proposed that the Assembly should send a message of support and solidarity to the victims that would show the world's indignation in the face of such atrocities. He thanked the President of the Assembly for his guidance of discussions, and said that the time had come to move from words to action. He hoped that the next Assembly would provide an opportunity to prepare a parliamentary statement on climate change for submission to the forthcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, due to be held in Morocco in November 2016. He welcomed the discussions on youth participation and rejuvenating democracy. A regional meeting was being planned in Latin America and the Caribbean to continue consideration of that important issue.

The PRESIDENT recalled that a statement on the terrorist attacks in Brussels had been issued by the President of the IPU and would be included in the summary records of the Assembly.

Mr. P. MAHOUX (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, thanked all delegations for their expressions of solidarity, and welcomed the presidential statement condemning the terrorist attacks in Brussels. The Assembly had spoken clearly on the need to strive to overcome terrorism. Terrorism was blind, recognized no borders and posed a threat to each and every person in all countries. The resolution that had been adopted underscored the need to stand firm in the face of cowardly atrocity. The response to terrorism must be rooted in the values of equality, dignity and dialogue, and in a united approach, based on solidarity. Other important issues had been discussed during the Assembly, particularly the emergency item. It had shed light on the plight of millions of children who did not have a legal identity and who were subject to violence and marginalization. The Twelve Plus Group wished to thank Zambia for its hospitality and warm African welcome.

Mr. P. NZENGUE MAYILA (Gabon), speaking on behalf of the African Group, congratulated the President of the Assembly and the President of the IPU. He expressed his gratitude to the Parliament of Zambia and to everyone who had worked to make the Assembly a success. During the Assembly, discussions had been held on issues of concern to all countries, including the need to protect cultural heritage, the importance of addressing terrorism, and the vital issue of youth participation. The brutal terrorist attacks that had taken place in Brussels had underscored the serious threat that terrorism posed to everyone around the world: no country was safe. The African Group extended its support and sincere condolences to the people and authorities of Belgium in the wake of such barbaric acts. The Assembly had made great strides; the time had come for all participants to return home and translate the messages of the Assembly into action.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh), *President of the IPU*, expressed his deep gratitude to the Parliament of Zambia for having organized a memorable Assembly. It had been a clear demonstration of cultural diversity, reflected by the 73 languages spoken in Zambia. The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly had provided time to reflect on the progress made regarding gender, rejuvenating democracy and restoring and reaffirming the trust of the electorate. It had been an important opportunity to consider how to move forward on those issues. A presidential statement had been issued condemning the terrorist attacks that had taken place in Belgium during the course of the Assembly. However, words were not sufficient. No one was immune from terrorism. The whole inter-parliamentary community shared Belgium's sorrow. It must come together in solidarity and stand tall against terror. He thanked all those who had contributed to the smooth running of the Assembly, and took note of the particularly active contributions of the geopolitical groups. The time had come for all participants to return to their parliaments and put the work done during the session into practice at the national level.

The PRESIDENT said he had been humbled to serve as the President of the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly, and expressed his gratitude to all participants and all those who had contributed to the successful organization of the session. The Assembly had been a forum for earnest debates and had afforded an opportunity to enhance parliamentary democracy and diplomacy. He underscored the continual need to question parliamentary practices and procedures to ensure they were the best possible. Despite the fact that young people had enormous potential to contribute meaningfully to national and global development, significant barriers to their direct participation persisted. Political leaders must show a constant and determined resolve to champion the cause of increasing young people's representation in legislative systems. The Assembly had also afforded an opportunity to discuss issues that were key for women's empowerment. That would be a powerful force for economic growth, social and political stability and sustainable peace.

Thanking all those who had attended, he declared the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly closed.

*The sitting rose at 5.20 p.m.*

## Outcome document of the General Debate on *Rejuvenating democracy, giving voice to youth*

*Endorsed by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

As an international organization, as national parliaments and as individual representatives of the people, we are driven by our belief in democracy.

We understand democracy as both a set of values and as a system of institutions that puts those values into practice. At the most fundamental level, we believe that everyone has the right to be heard, and that all voices carry equal weight. Our primary responsibility as parliamentarians is to serve the people and deliver policies and legislation that address their needs and interests.

We understand that there is no single model of democracy. A country's institutions evolve from its particular history, culture and traditions. Equally, we unequivocally reaffirm that the principles of democracy are universal. We reaffirm the core values of democratic parliaments. Those values are about:

- seeking to be representative of the country's social and political diversity;
- being open to our citizens and transparent in the conduct of parliamentary business;
- ensuring accessibility and accountability to our citizens; and
- performing our work effectively.

We underline that the practices of democracy must constantly change with the times, so that they reflect the societies that nourish them.

Today, our democracies face key challenges. We are challenged to restore and strengthen public confidence in the institutions of democracy. The perception of disconnect, corruption and inauthenticity undermines our institutions and the image of politics and politicians. Voter turnout in elections has tended to decrease over time, especially among young people. Barriers to democracy, and the tendency for any part of the population to turn their backs on our institutions, are a concern to us all. Statistically, young people are least likely to vote and are increasingly disengaged from formal political processes.

This lack of engagement cannot be attributed to apathy. Young people use many different platforms to engage in democracy, such as social media, youth organizations and in some cases, protests and unrest. Rather, political institutions have too often failed to open up to young people. Our institutions have not kept up with the fast-changing and increasingly interconnected world into which young people have been born.

More than half of the world today is under 30 years of age. As today's young people become tomorrow's adult population, we run the risk of failing to address their growing disengagement. Over time, that failure threatens to undermine the very legitimacy of our governments and parliaments. We must act now.

We note with satisfaction that in the 2030 Agenda, governments recognize that peace, justice and strong institutions are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We have long held that belief. We can and must do more to ensure that parliaments live up to the core values that we have defined for ourselves. We believe that the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without inclusively harnessing the power of all parts of our societies. Harnessing the dynamism of young people is a top priority as they will be the prime beneficiaries of the Agenda's results. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development now provides an opportunity to renew momentum for strengthening the institutions of democracy.

Our response to rising extremism must be based on more democracy, not less. Radicalism can only be defeated if we give young people the opportunities they deserve. We must stand firm in our beliefs and not be tempted into undemocratic responses to the challenges facing us.

**It is time to take action for a democratic renaissance. And we can start rejuvenating democracy today by giving voice to youth.** Citizens of all ages have a role to play in rejuvenating democracy. However, young people are now the majority of the world population.

They are critical thinkers, change makers and bearers of fresh ideas. That is why we are convinced that young people are ideally placed to be the key agents of a democratic renaissance. We therefore need to make sure that we give voice to youth and that we are ready and able to hear that voice.

Increasing youth participation is a key element of giving voice to youth which will rejuvenate democracy. We are concerned that only 1.9 per cent of the world's parliamentarians are aged under 30. We recognize that we have a duty to create an enabling environment that guarantees young people's participation and galvanizes their leadership. We acknowledge that no decision about youth should be taken without youth. That is why we pledge to increase youth representation in parliament. And that is why we need to link up with youth, both formally and informally. We must reach out to them where they are - on social media platforms, in schools, universities and public spaces. We reaffirm with renewed vigour our commitment to implement the 2010 IPU resolution *Youth participation in the democratic process* by enhancing young people's connection to the world of politics and facilitating their political representation.

**Rejuvenating democracy is about ensuring that everyone is included.** Our governments must be based on the will of the people and be accountable to the people for their actions. Healthy institutions of democracy must ensure that power is not concentrated in the hands of the few. Inclusion is necessary not only to ensure that the rights of people are continuously respected and fulfilled, but also to bring all people closer to political institutions and ensure that we make better policy.

Through inclusive parliaments, citizens can shape their democracies according to their own circumstances and better contribute to the make-up of the societies of today and tomorrow.

**Rejuvenating democracy is also about adapting our parliaments to our time.** It is about rethinking their processes, so as to respond to evolving social and individual needs. By being gender-sensitive in their composition, structures and work, our parliaments can adapt better to the growing evolution of men and women's roles in society and in the family. Gender-sensitive parliaments have great benefits, in particular to young women and men parliamentarians, as no one should sacrifice their personal life to engage in politics today.

**Rejuvenating democracy is about modernizing the functioning of our institutions.** Opening up to new technologies makes it possible to usher in a new era of democracy 2.0. The exponential increase in the use of modern technologies and social media, and in access to information has changed the ways that citizens participate. Our parliaments must open up to the online world in their structures and mechanisms, so as to adapt to the expanded space and time of modern communication, interaction and participation.

**Rejuvenating democracy is about changing the way politics is done.** Citizens rightly expect the highest levels of integrity from us and our institutions. Change will be driven by clean politics, transparent procedures, and anti-corruption policies and laws. They should be implemented by all of us. By honestly fulfilling our mandate as representatives of the people, we will contribute to rebuilding the weakened trust in us and our institutions. We will make our democracies better and stronger if we keep our electoral promises, remain accessible to our citizens, act responsibly, transparently and accountably, and inspire young people through our words and actions.

**Rejuvenating democracy is also about delivering for a better future.** The voices of future generations need to be included in our political debates and processes. We need to ensure that our posterity has a better quality of life than we do, and can live a healthy life on a healthy planet. We therefore need to make sure that our deliberations and decisions embody the needs of tomorrow's generations.

At this 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly, many innovative proposals for strengthening democracy and engaging young people have been put forward. We encourage governments and parliaments to experiment with new ideas that could make the institutions of democracy more responsive to the people.

We pledge to rejuvenate democracy including by taking action to:

- Renew and refresh the profile of people who hold political office, so that parliaments and other decision-making bodies are more inclusive of society's social and political diversity;

- Enhance youth representation in our parliaments, including by considering the adoption of quotas, revisiting age restrictions to run for political office, building party political support, entrusting young MPs with leadership positions, and promoting young MPs as role models for other young people; particular attention should be given to the specific situation and needs of young women;
- Reform our parliamentary processes and internal policies to make them more sensitive to the needs of younger women and men, including by considering the adoption of anti-harassment policies, reforming parental leave, and implementing proxy voting;
- Promote the use of modern technologies to enhance transparency and accountability; use innovations such as online petitions, virtual hearings and submissions, and online interactions and voting to bring citizens, and young people in particular, into the parliamentary process;
- Establish specialized parliamentary committees on youth and networks of young parliamentarians to consolidate youth perspectives into parliamentary work; open up parliamentary deliberations to young people, including through regular parliamentary hearings and consultations, as well as through linking up with youth parliaments and councils, student associations and youth NGOs;
- Ensure that political empowerment is promoted in school curricula through civic education and practical initiatives, such as mock parliaments, mock voting and political debating; invest in youth parliaments and councils for young people below the voting age and enhance youth participation in politics by lowering the voting age;
- Include young representatives in international fora and deliberations, in particular at the IPU, by systematically including at least one young man or young woman member in delegations;
- Use the International Day of Democracy (15 September) to celebrate the successes of democracy and face up to its challenges.

It is our duty to rejuvenate democracy to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations. In doing so, we must harness the creativity, energy and enthusiasm of our citizens, particularly of young men and women. We cannot wait for another generation to act. The time to act is now.

## Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and human rights

### *Resolution adopted by consensus\* by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly and Security Council on combating terrorism, in particular Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2129 (2013), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015), 2253 (2015), General Assembly resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006 on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and follow-up resolutions, and the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as IPU resolutions adopted by the 116<sup>th</sup> Assembly (Nusa Dua, Bali, 2007), the 122<sup>nd</sup> Assembly (Bangkok, 2010) and the 132<sup>nd</sup> Assembly (Hanoi, 2015), all of which underscore the need for cooperation in the fight against terrorism,

*Also recalling* the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council on women, peace and security, in particular resolution 2242 (2015) which recognizes “the differential impact on the human rights of women and girls of terrorism and violent extremism” and the use of sexual and gender-based violence as “a tactic of terrorism”, and calls for the increased participation of women in multilateral processes on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism,

*Reaffirming* that its primary objective is to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and *underscoring* that any counter-terrorism measures taken must be in accordance with that Charter and international law, international human rights law, and in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as applicable,

*Noting* the absence of a universally agreed definition of terrorism at the international level,

*Considering nevertheless* that this gap should not be an obstacle to concerted action by the international community to combat terrorist activities and organizations, provided that States have at their disposal national laws containing clear and precise definitions of terrorist acts according to the definitions in international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as adopted by the UN Security Council, and punish those acts,

*Also considering* that international cooperation in combating terrorism in keeping with UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions can only be effective if parliaments adopt a series of legislative and financial measures aimed at preventing terrorism and criminalizing terrorist acts and their glorification, as well as terrorist propaganda,

*Convinced* that those measures should also make it possible to prosecute the perpetrators, accomplices and supporters of terrorist acts, prevent the movement of terrorist fighters, monitor the activities of persons suspected of terrorist activity and cut off the means of financing terrorist organizations,

*Concerned* by the possible nexus between terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as document fraud, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking, sexual exploitation, the pillage of historical sites, the sale of antiquities, the looting of natural resources and money laundering,

*Also concerned* by the growing use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the Internet and social networks by terrorist organizations to exchange information, plan and carry out attacks and spread their propaganda,

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\* The delegation of India expressed a reservation on the expression “right to a private life”.

*Underscoring* the need to take measures aimed at eliminating conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, some of which take root within society, such as poverty, scarce basic services, gender discrimination, social inequality and exclusion, and a sense of injustice, which provide terrorist organizations with a fertile breeding ground for recruitment, especially among young people,

*Also underscoring* that the status of children must always, and in particular in the context of terrorism, be taken into account and considered from the angle of the development and the rights of the child, as set forth in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child,

*Considering* that the implementation of social and educational measures likely to prevent the emergence of extremist behaviours that can lead individuals towards terrorism – or put an end to such behaviours – is indispensable in the fight against terrorism,

*Concerned* that individuals who have been listed globally as terrorists by the United Nations are not being prosecuted by UN Member States and are still moving around freely,

1. *Calls upon* individuals to refrain from using religion, religious heritage and culture to commit terrorist acts, as this fuels religious and cultural prejudice;
2. *Calls* for the establishment of cultural dialogue aimed at preventing extremism and combating terrorism, which would seek to reach a meeting of minds between different cultures based on intellectual and cultural insights, and to ensure coordinated global efforts to combat extremism and terrorism;
3. *Also calls* for the spreading of tolerance and moderation and *underscores* the need for legislative and executive actions to combat hatred, against ethnic and religious minorities in all countries, and to provide the necessary protection for places of worship, as well as due respect for holy books and religious symbols;
4. *Emphasizes* the absolute need for enhanced international cooperation and the promotion of inter-parliamentary information exchange, in order to effectively tackle terrorism and dismantle terrorist networks;
5. *Urges* parliaments to adopt measures to prevent the commission, planning and funding of any kind of terrorist act against any State, irrespective of motives;
6. *Calls* for the funding of education programmes, as well as community and civil society initiatives – in particular those benefiting youth and women's empowerment – that are designed to avoid the development of extremist behaviour that could lead individuals to take part in terrorist acts and that are also designed to help build a culture of tolerance and peace in our societies;
7. *Also calls* for the funding of what are known as counter-narrative campaigns, designed to counteract the propaganda of terrorist organizations, including on social networks and the Internet as well as in schools and religious institutions;
8. *Strongly urges* parliaments to require providers to be responsible in their approach to the largest communication platform of our era, to facilitate notice-and-takedown procedures, to pass on patently criminal content to law enforcement agencies when that is appropriate, and after an examination of the legal issues based on the criteria of the rule of law, thus allowing effective criminal prosecution;
9. *Also urges* parliaments to exchange good practices, and legal and technical knowledge, both pre-emptively in order to fight against the radicalization of certain individuals within the population, and reactively to ensure that individuals are de-radicalized;
10. *Recommends* that criminal legislation relating to terrorist acts or activities are clearly and precisely drafted to ensure that legal proceedings and international coordination in the fight against terrorism are effective, and *highlights* that fundamental rights and the principles of fair criminal proceedings on the basis of due process must be guaranteed, particularly with regard to freedom of movement, freedom of conscience and religion, protection from arbitrary arrest, the right to a private life and the right to be presumed innocent;

11. *Also recommends* that criminal legislation regarding terrorist acts be applied to minors in a manner which accounts for their capacity for rehabilitation, particularly with respect to sentencing;
12. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize not only acts of terrorism, as defined by UN Security Council resolutions, but also the planning both to commit such acts and to assist or facilitate, whether by act or omission, the commission of such acts, and also to bring into their legislation an obligation to either prosecute or extradite for prosecution individuals charged with terrorist acts or activities;
13. *Considers* it essential to also criminalize the recruitment and training of terrorists and their supporters as well as the incitement to commit acts of terrorism, particularly through rallies, virtual social networks or more generally through the use of the Internet, while also ensuring that any measures taken are proportional to the threat, taking particular account of any attempts to impair freedom of expression and human rights;
14. *Requests* parliaments to criminalize the intentional development, maintenance or hosting of websites which have been identified as terrorist sites and which, directly or indirectly, intentionally support terrorist activities, as well as to criminalize the intentional downloading of documents or programmes of a terrorist nature with the aim of committing terrorist crimes;
15. *Also requests* parliaments to criminalize the act of travelling abroad, or attempting to do so, in order to commit or assist in committing a terrorist act, to participate in, provide or receive terrorism-related training, to facilitate the movement of terrorist fighters, to recruit terrorist fighters or to train or assist in training terrorists;
16. *Strongly recommends* that legal measures be identified to stop social benefits for individuals who have gone abroad to support or become terrorist fighters;
17. *Requests* parliaments to authorize the competent authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of terrorist offences or serious crimes to collect data about airline passengers before they travel, and to place an obligation on airlines and travel agents to provide, in advance and in electronic format, information about passengers and their travel documentation;
18. *Also requests* parliaments to allow the administrative authorities to confiscate the travel documents of terrorist fighters (by temporarily withdrawing, suspending or confiscating their passports or travel documents, including for minors) or to allow any measure that enables their travel arrangements to be cancelled as a matter of urgency;
19. *Further requests* that parliaments authorize measures for their State's electronic national security system to be connected to I-24/7, the global police communications system, and to the databases of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and allocate the necessary funds to do so;
20. *Calls on* parliaments to review their legislation in order to prevent any financial aid or support from being provided to terrorist fighters and to criminalize the financing of terrorism;
21. *Recommends* in that regard that legal provision be made for the possibility, first, to rapidly freeze assets and bank accounts used or intended to be used by terrorists, their accomplices or supporters; second, to prohibit the transfer or raising of funds which are intended to directly or indirectly assist terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters or by terrorist organizations; and third, to facilitate information exchange on financial transactions and movements of funds between States, including through exchange protocols established either by recognized international organizations such as INTERPOL or through bilateral agreements;
22. *Notes* the need to provide States with the financial, human and legal resources to enable relevant authorities to place under surveillance terrorist organizations and persons who might commit or support terrorist acts, in order to bring to justice terrorist fighters, their accomplices or supporters, or to arrest them before they take action;

23. *Calls on* parliaments to promote international cooperation between security forces, intelligence services and customs and immigration authorities, including by centralizing and coordinating information exchange, authorizing the swift ratification of extradition treaties concluded between the States of origin, transit and destination of terrorist fighters, and by monitoring the effectiveness of their implementation on the basis of legally binding agreements relating to compliance with the rule of law and data protection standards, in order to prevent the abuse of immigration and asylum law for the purposes of terrorism;
24. *Requests* parliaments to develop national legislation, supported by appropriate financing, that would allow the victims of terrorist acts to exercise their right to redress against those who have provided financial or logistical support to terrorists, as well as legislation, supported by adequate resources, that would establish a mechanism to assist and support victims, taking into account the specific needs of women and girl victims;
25. *Urges* parliaments to increase their efforts to reduce poverty; to combat discrimination against unemployed people, particularly young unemployed people, in order to ensure access to quality education for boys and girls and to basic services for all; and to combat racism as well as all forms of discrimination, particularly when based on unemployment, gender and social inequality, which provide a fertile breeding ground for the spread of terrorism;
26. *Welcomes* the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, *takes note* of his Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, and *encourages* parliaments to ensure that it is successfully implemented, in parallel with efforts made as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16;
27. *Urges* parliaments to commit to the empowerment of women as a means of preventing and combating terrorism in all its forms, in particular by securing the full participation of women and youth in decision-making and their economic independence;
28. *Requests* the IPU to promote inter-parliamentary information exchange and cooperation, and to facilitate dialogue among practitioners and parliamentarians, by establishing a forum where parliamentarians and UN counter-terrorism-related bodies could interact, with a view to sharing, at global and regional levels, good practices on confidence-building measures that are conducive to peace, international stability and security, and ensuring women's and young people's full participation in such efforts, with due consideration for the sovereignty of each State.

## Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity

### *Resolution adopted unanimously by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* that several UNESCO Conventions already provide an international legal framework for the protection of heritage,

*Also recalling* the working paper on "Ensuring lasting protection against destruction and deterioration for the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of humanity", which highlights the need for further mechanisms to protect this legacy, and which also mentions the nine main challenges referred to below,<sup>1</sup>

#### **Armed conflict and terrorism**

*Noting* that, in situations of armed conflict, there is an almost systematic destruction of cultural heritage, whether as collateral damage or intentional destruction,

*Recalling* that the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (the 1954 Hague Convention) and its two Protocols already provide for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and are an integral part of international humanitarian law,

*Regretting* that too few States have ratified those instruments, particularly the Second Protocol, which includes provisions in particular for preventive measures to protect cultural heritage and to enhance that protection,

*Strongly condemning* all acts of intentional destruction of cultural heritage, and *recalling* that Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court defines such destruction, under certain circumstances, as a war crime, while Article 15 of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention considers it an offence,

#### **Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism**

*Recalling* that looting and illicit trafficking of cultural items are widespread in countries where there is a rich archaeological heritage and where there is either a weak legal and institutional framework or where these activities are considered a significant source of income, and *emphasizing* the importance of international parliamentary cooperation to combat theft, smuggling and trade in cultural heritage, as well as the funding of terrorism, and the need to enact appropriate laws prohibiting such acts,

*Also recalling* that United Nations Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), as well as other relevant Security Council and IPU resolutions, establish a direct link between illicit trafficking of cultural items and the funding of terrorism,

*Underscoring* the need to ensure that there is a mechanism in place to adequately protect underwater cultural heritage against intensive and systematic looting premised on the logic that those who first discover underwater heritage automatically become its owner,

#### **Mass tourism**

*Convinced* that cultural heritage constitutes a unique tourist attraction and that mass tourism can be both promising for economic development and damaging for our heritage,

*Emphasizing* the need to evaluate cultural heritage assets against sustainable development evaluation standards,

*Noting* that mass tourism can have adverse impacts on parts of our heritage that are ill-suited to deal with such large numbers of visitors,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/conf-f/133/2cmt-DESTEXHE.pdf>

*Recalling* that tourists have a duty to maintain and preserve our common heritage, which should help to create visiting conditions that allow each and every one to respect that heritage and at the same time avoid using it inappropriately or untowardly,

*Also recalling* that the necessary balance between encouraging tourism and preserving cultural heritage can only be struck by ensuring the development of "sustainable tourism and conservation practices,"

### **Population growth and urbanization**

*Noting* that population growth and concentration lead to urbanization policies that are likely to seriously damage heritage and its surrounding environment,

*Considering* that spatial planning must be integrated into a sustainable and balanced development approach that reconciles socioeconomic development, in particular regarding tourism, and the conservation and protection of historical and natural heritage,

### **Enhancing awareness**

*Recognizing* the importance of raising awareness from an early age among individuals and communities about the importance of preserving our cultural heritage, so as to trigger a process of assuming responsibility for prevention of deterioration and destruction that jeopardize our cultural heritage,

*Also recognizing* the value of developing scientific research and postgraduate studies in the field of urban heritage, so as to train national cadres and create a comprehensive database of urban heritage, which would include all related data and studies, along with efforts to educate the public and raise awareness of urban heritage, its importance and need for its development,

### **Conservation of heritage**

*Insisting* on the imperative that must prevail in the choice of restoration techniques and materials used, as well as the qualification and training of persons entrusted with undertaking such work, so as to prevent any restoration company from causing irreversible damage to heritage or works of art,

*Considering* the positive role that the conservation and restoration of heritage can play in fostering nations' understanding of their history and identity and, through recognition of humanity's common heritage, mutual respect among peoples and recognition of the diversity and equal dignity of the world's cultures,

### **Globalization**

*Also considering* that one of the effects of globalization is the standardization and homogenization of all facets of heritage, which particularly threatens the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage,

### **Climate change and pollution**

*Recognizing* that climate change, natural disasters and man-made disasters can have a negative impact on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage,

*Considering* that strengthening efforts deployed to protect and conserve humanity's natural and cultural heritage is part of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be achieved by 2030 (SDGs target 11.4) adopted by the Member States of the United Nations (UN) in 2015, and *expressing the wish* to implement what was agreed at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris,

### **Nominations for the World Heritage List**

*Recalling* that greater protection can be provided to items declared and listed as national heritage, and that States should be made aware of that fact,

*Underscoring* the need to protect heritage as a whole, whether listed or not, against common threats,

*Recognizing* the importance of cultural heritage as a strategic resource to ensure sustainable development, and *convinced* that efforts aimed at safeguarding cultural heritage should be fully integrated into development plans, policies and programmes at all levels,

*Welcoming* the work already done in response to those threats by UNESCO as well as by all international, national and local bodies and organizations as well as natural and legal persons working in the field of cultural heritage,

*Recalling* that, in order to avoid duplication, all the legal instruments relating to heritage should constitute a coherent whole rather than merely exist in parallel,

*Considering* that parliaments have important powers to lead, legislate and oversee government action in order to enable the recommendations below to be effectively implemented,

#### **Armed conflict and terrorism**

1. *Urges* States to become party to and incorporate into their national legal framework the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols as applicable;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to adopt comprehensive regulations that provide for measures to protect cultural property in cases of armed conflict, disaster or emergency situation;
3. *Requests* parliaments to ensure that all parties to armed conflict respect cultural property in accordance with the rules of international humanitarian law and the legal framework established by conventions governing cultural matters that they have ratified;
4. *Recommends* the establishment of mechanisms needed to systematically prosecute the perpetrators of acts of destruction of cultural heritage and *also recommends* that intentional acts of destruction should be defined as a war crime, according to Article 8.2 of the Rome Statute and in line with United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, and similarly the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as applicable;
5. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of developing a framework for cooperation with international criminal justice bodies and of facilitating the development of inter-State judicial cooperation procedures, which is essential for the prosecution of the perpetrators of the most serious crimes;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to advocate for greater efforts to be made in training staff at museums and other institutions in which cultural heritage is kept so that, in times of war, natural disaster or major emergency, they are able to determine the priorities and modalities for protecting and keeping it safe as a matter of urgency;
7. *Invites* parliaments to legislate in order to anticipate situations of potential armed conflict, by establishing an inventory and an emergency plan for the storage or evacuation of tangible heritage and for the protection of built heritage;
8. *Proposes* to include the protection of cultural and historical sites in multilateral peacekeeping operations;

#### **Looting, illicit trafficking and funding terrorism**

9. *Calls upon* States to become party to the 1970 UNESCO Convention<sup>2</sup>, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001), and the UNIDROIT Convention (1995) and to transpose the provisions of these instruments into the national legal framework;<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

<sup>3</sup> UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (1995).

10. *Recommends* that parliaments ensure that States keep an inventory of all significant heritage in the broadest sense, to record the entire inventory on microfiche and/or CD-ROM and to keep several secure copies;
11. *Also recommends* that, on the basis of the inventory, that conditions be created to ensure that regular studies are conducted and that complaints of looting can be followed up;
12. *Invites* parliaments to establish a national body to combat trafficking in cultural property whose mandate would extend to looting within countries' national borders and on the high seas;
13. *Requests* each parliament to ensure that records are established for professional art dealers, which should indicate the origin of the items they purchase;
14. *Strongly urges* parliaments to recommend that all necessary efforts, including the establishment of special police and customs units be made to combat the theft of and suppress illicit trafficking in cultural property;
15. *Encourages* parliaments to support all bilateral or international cooperation initiatives in collaboration with Interpol and the World Customs Organization;
16. *Also encourages* parliaments to advocate for the effective implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 2199, which establishes linkages between the illicit trafficking of cultural objects and the funding of terrorism;
17. *Invites* parliaments to adopt legislation or administrative mechanisms consistent with the practical tool entitled "Basic Actions Concerning Cultural Objects Being Offered for Sale Over the Internet" developed by UNESCO with Interpol and the International Council of Museums;
18. *Recommends* that parliaments, especially those of importing countries, advocate for a monitoring system to be established, which would relate to the movement of cultural property and which would include a system of export certificates, without which it would constitute a criminal offence for cultural property to be moved out of a country of origin or moved into another country;
19. *Also recommends* that urgent measures be adopted to prohibit imports when the heritage of a State Party is seriously threatened by intense looting of archaeological and ethnological materials;

#### **Mass tourism**

20. *Invites* parliaments to take appropriate action in order to establish a system to regulate the numbers of tourists, using a daily visitor quota with time slots, after first having determined the cultural heritage to which such a system should apply;
21. *Encourages* the more systematic establishment of protection perimeters to prevent permanent or long-term damage to the country's physical, cultural and environmental heritage;
22. *Requests* parliaments to consider the possibility of limiting the number of people visiting national museums and the most frequently visited sites, so as to both protect heritage and maintain the quality of visits;
23. *Invites* parliaments to engage in consultations with museum authorities and other authorities in charge of cultural heritage in order to ensure that they are not only pursuing economic goals, but also doing all they can to ensure the quality of visits, the protection of objects and awareness of the cultural heritage on exhibit;
24. *Also invites* parliaments to establish policy and guidelines for sustainable tourism development, which will also look into the issue of tourist guards/police among others and, in particular, language training;

#### **Population growth and urbanization**

25. *Further invites* parliaments to insist that impact assessments be systematically carried out in their respective countries wherever projects alter the environment that surrounds cultural heritage and to adopt legislative provisions aimed at establishing a

protective perimeter around the most striking monuments and the creation of protected zones in neighbourhoods that stand out for their historical or esthetical character;

26. *Endeavours* to ensure respect for and enhanced recognition of cultural heritage in society, in respective educational systems and policies;

#### **Enhancing awareness**

27. *Strongly recommends* that awareness-raising efforts be made in relation to the respect for and protection of heritage in school curricula and military training programmes;
28. *Invites* parliaments to promote public awareness-raising events, such as heritage days, and to encourage all public and private initiatives that form part of the International Day for Monuments and Sites dedicated to World Heritage on 18 April;
29. *Encourages* parliaments to draft and adopt national information plans on historical heritage, including training and information activities;
30. *Invites* parliaments to promote citizen participation in the process of managing heritage in line with the strategy of the Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (the Faro Convention);
31. *Requests* that parliaments insist on the implementation of preventive and protective measures when heritage is in danger in parallel with measures aimed at restoring and/or repairing of cultural property;
32. *Invites* parliaments to ensure that background information is made available to citizens on tangible, intangible and underwater cultural heritage located in their countries;

#### **Conservation of heritage**

33. *Encourages* parliaments to do everything possible to foster and organize high-level training on the conservation and protection of cultural heritage in all its forms, and facilitate capacity-building activities for their safeguarding;
34. *Also encourages* parliaments to promote the regular maintenance of the heritage of their country;
35. *Further encourages* States to adopt legislation to protect historical monuments and the most striking buildings from a historical or architectural point of view; such legislation would make their demolition, displacement or restoration subject to authorization by the authorities responsible for the protection of historical monuments; it would also ensure that the overall management of the work is entrusted to certified professionals based on their skills; it would authorize the administrative authority to oblige the property owner to undertake the necessary work in order to conserve the monument, in exchange for the State's participation in the restoration costs;
36. *Calls upon* parliaments to foster the development of training for technicians and experts in the conservation and restoration of tangible and intangible assets that make up cultural heritage, as well as to promote programmes, scholarships and international forums for the exchange of knowledge and discussion on topical issues related to cultural heritage;
37. *Also calls upon* parliaments to ensure that, where large-scale restoration projects occur, they receive automatic support from networks of national and international experts, including governmental organizations, educational and research institutions, and the private sector, so that an assessment can be made of best techniques to be used;

#### **Climate change and pollution**

38. *Recommends* that consultations with experts take place, including with specialists in cultural heritage and traditional construction techniques, in order to plan for climate change and its effects on cultural heritage, as well as to include traditional knowledge and techniques in conservation plans;

39. *Also recommends* that parliaments do the needful to ensure that consultations on the impact of climate change on cultural property also take into account external factors linked to lifestyle, such as pollution, which compound the primary impacts and thus cannot be disregarded;
40. *Encourages* the establishment both of national listed heritage assessments and of potential climate-change-related risks in order to take measures to limit them;
41. *Calls for* enhanced awareness-raising activities all over the world so as to prevent harmful environmental practices in order to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect heritage;

#### **Nominations for world heritage lists**

42. *Encourages* efforts to raise the awareness of the authorities of each country about the potential interests of registering elements of cultural heritage located inside their borders on the UNESCO World Heritage List and therefore include, in their Tentative Lists, the names of those properties which they consider to be cultural and/or natural heritage of outstanding universal value;
43. *Urges* parliaments to do everything possible to assess whether, in accordance with the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, certain segments of heritage should benefit from higher levels of protection;
44. *Strongly urges* States to become party to the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) as well as the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to fully complement the set of the international standard-setting instruments dedicated to the safeguarding of cultural heritage and diversity;
45. *Recommends* that parliaments encourage their governments to support other countries by providing them, where necessary, with assistance in training in and awareness-raising about the importance of conserving cultural property, what steps to take with regard to UNESCO and exchange of good practices related to the protection of cultural property;
46. *Also recommends* that parliaments remind their governments that registering cultural property on the UNESCO List should be motivated by objective criteria and be limited to those assets that present a real and universal heritage interest, without any concern for the geographical balance of properties between countries or continents or political considerations, without which this List would risk becoming endless and would lose its initial purpose.

## Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

**Summary of the debate *The freedom of women to participate in political processes fully, safely and without interference: Building partnerships between men and women to achieve this objective.***

On Tuesday, 21 March 2016, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held an interactive debate on the freedom of women to participate in political processes and how genuine partnership between women and men could contribute to that objective. The debate was a preparatory step towards a resolution that would be adopted on that subject at the 135<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. The debate was launched by an introductory presentation on the latest findings of the IPU on women's participation in parliaments, followed by a question and answer session with five panellists. The panellists were the resolution's co-Rapporteurs, Ms. S. Lines (Australia) and Mr. M. Kilonzo Junior (Kenya), as well as Mr. N. Erskine-Smith (Canada), Ms. M. Azer Abdelmalak (Egypt) and Mr. J. Zangpo (Bhutan). The session was chaired by Ms. A. King (New Zealand), Acting President of the Committee.

Participants addressed the obstacles to women's participation in politics and called for a paradigm shift within parliaments, political parties and society at large. Discriminatory stereotypes and patriarchal culture were still a predominant feature in many countries. Social norms and traditional roles were frequently invoked to suggest that politics was not a good career option for women. Political parties were concerned about whether seats were winnable with women candidates, and male politicians worried about losing access to elected positions. Reconciling family and political life was difficult and could make a political career less attractive to women. Women in politics were often the target of abuse on social media.

Quotas had had a determining effect in increasing the number of women in parliament in many countries. Quotas were only effective when they were adequately designed and implemented, and when there were strong incentives for political parties to respect them. Quotas and laws alone could not change a culture. Yet the increased presence of women in parliament was providing more role models for young women interested in politics and was contributing to changing mentalities.

Participants proposed many avenues for expanding women's political participation. Education was a vital first step to challenging stereotypes and discrimination. Parliaments and parties were increasingly aiming for parity between men and women in elected positions. Political parties needed to commit to gender equality, including in leadership roles. Parties also needed to demonstrate those commitments through their actions. There were signs that young party members and political activists were more favourable to gender equality; they needed to be encouraged and mentored.

Financial support for women candidates and for women parliamentarians to travel with their young children would lower some of the barriers to a political career. Cross-party agreement that women should be members of parliamentary committees in all policy areas, including "hard" areas such as defence and public finances, would help to change the current imbalance.

Penalties must be imposed against all attempts to intimidate women, whether in parliament, in their constituency or on social media. Parliaments needed to ensure a zero-tolerance culture towards violence, harassment and the intimidation of women by, for example, adopting a code of conduct or a policy on sexual harassment. Women parliamentarians were already starting to speak out about instances of harassment, and should be encouraged to do so without fear or shame.

For many years, the onus to work for gender equality had been placed on women alone. "Women should vote for women" was an often-repeated phrase. Young women had been told that they could do anything, but without any accompanying support from men. Gradually, the conceptual framework was shifting towards a genuine partnership between men and women that favoured gender equality. Men had to come forward and be vocal advocates for gender equality as well as women. It was noted that this was still a new idea in many countries, but it was happening, and it was the future.

**Report on the interactive debate *Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability***

At its sitting on 22 March, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights held a debate entitled *Open Parliaments: Building an association on accountability*. Acting President Ms. A. King (New Zealand) was in the chair. The panellists were Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), Mr. N. Evans (United Kingdom), Mr. C. Chauvel (Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, United Nations Development Programme) and Mr. D. Swislow (Senior Partnerships Officer, National Democratic Institute - NDI). A further 23 parliamentarians spoke from the floor.

Participants unanimously made the case for greater openness in parliament. The first Global Parliamentary Report had noted that: public trust in parliament was low; citizens expected parliamentarians to account for their actions more regularly than ever before; and because of their very nature, parliaments were resilient and able to adapt to society's needs.

It was observed that openness was no longer a choice, it was a necessity. Greater openness helped to break down perceived barriers between parliaments and citizens. Openness and transparency were the preconditions for citizens to be able to hold parliaments and their representatives to account for their actions. They helped to make parliament more effective overall, by facilitating greater public participation in parliament's work.

Participants shared numerous examples of initiatives to promote greater openness. Mexico had adopted a law on transparency that was prepared in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including those from civil society. In the United Kingdom, e-petitions automatically triggered a debate in parliament on the subject of the petition once a certain number of signatures had been reached. The Government Assurances Committee in Ghana broadcast its public hearings. It received submissions via text message and WhatsApp, so that the public could be involved in holding the Government to account for the promises it had made.

The movement towards greater openness was supported and catalysed by organizations such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP). OGP had been launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP had grown from 8 to 69 participating countries. In all of those countries, government and civil society were working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms through action plans.

A Legislative Openness Working Group had been created within OGP in 2013 by parliaments and civil society organizations. Lessons learned included: the need for parliament and government to have separate action plans; for the commitment to openness to come not just from individual parliamentarians, but from the institution of parliament; and for that commitment to have ongoing multiparty support. The space for parliaments within OGP remained limited, but there were signs of change as more parliaments adopted action plans.

There had been an increasing number of examples of successful collaboration between parliaments and civil society organizations in terms of making parliamentary data available in reusable formats. Those examples built on the momentum of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness. A network of civil society organizations had made the Declaration in 2012, and it had since been endorsed by parliaments including those of Serbia and Peru.

It was noted that openness in parliament was necessary but not sufficient. Citizens would not become interested in talking to parliament simply because additional communications channels were available. Greater openness encouraged more trust, but was not enough on its own. Parliaments needed to work on a range of fronts to strengthen relations with citizens and build trust. A free press and other core elements of democratic society were also vital.

## Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The President of the Committee, Mr. Anti Avsan (Sweden) opened the session and welcomed the participants.

Referring to the first two items on the agenda, Mr. Avsan invited the Committee to adopt the report of the previous session at the 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly and elect three new members to the Bureau following nominations received by the geopolitical groups: Mr. A. Romanovich (Russian Federation), Ms. A. Rashed Albasti (United Arab Emirates), and Mr. Al-Fatish Izzeldin Al-Mansour (Sudan).

Mr. Romanovich having had to return to his country, he was introduced by Mr. K. Kosachev as a former member of the Bureau, also from the Russian Federation. Ms. Albasti talked about her work with women and domestic violence and her interest in international affairs, particularly peacekeeping. Mr. Al-Mansour was absent.

Mr. Avsan proceeded to introduce the two sessions on the programme, which he chaired.

### Session 1: **Interactive debate on the new election process for the UN Secretary-General.**

**Ms. G. Ortiz**, President of the Legislative Studies Committee (Senate of Mexico), and member of the Bureau of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs; **Mr. K. Kosachev**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Council of the Federation, Russian Federation; and **Ms. Y. Terlingen**, Representative of the *1 for 7 Billion Campaign*

This session provided members with an opportunity to comment on a new appointment process for the selection of the United Nations Secretary-General as outlined in a Secretariat background note. The note traced the history of the appointment process over 70 years of the United Nations and showed that most of the applicable rules were derived by practice and not from the UN Charter. It was possible for member States to change these rules by a resolution of the General Assembly.

As part of the ongoing reform process of the United Nations, a large number of Member States had demanded that the appointment of the UN Secretary General be more transparent and inclusive of the entire membership, through the General Assembly, and not confined to the 15-member Security Council where five permanent members (the P5 with veto power) held most of the decision-making authority. A more democratic selection process would help ensure the impartiality of the office-holder and empower him or her to act as a true representative of the “peoples” referred to in the UN Charter.

The background note proposed seven questions for discussion on the qualifications for the post of UN Secretary-General, the renewability of the term of office, and considerations for gender balance and regional representation. Most importantly, the note invited reflection on the key question of whether the General Assembly should hold a real election and not be limited to approving the one candidate recommended by the Security Council. That would require the Security Council to submit to the General Assembly more than one name.

Elaborating further, Ms. Terlingen gave a detailed presentation of a new appointment process the General Assembly had adopted in resolution 69/321 of September 2015. Mr. Kosachev and Ms. Ortiz acted as respondents to her presentation. The following 15 delegations contributed comments and questions: Bangladesh, Bahrain, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cuba, Kenya, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, Uganda, South Africa, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates and Zambia.

Ms. Terlingen noted that while the new appointment process represented a step in the right direction, it did not go far enough. She noted two important innovations: first, government-nominated candidates must submit their curricula vitae to the President of the General Assembly and all must be posted online; second, the General Assembly can convene informal public hearings with the candidates. The new process also more explicitly than ever invites woman candidates to come forward and stresses the need to consider gender diversity in that process, which so far had always led to the appointment of men only.

From the standpoint of the *1 for 7 Billion campaign* (an umbrella organization of 750 civil society organizations), the new rules should limit the mandate of the UN Secretary-General to a single non-renewable term (possibly extended to seven years) in order to enhance the political independence of the UN Secretary-General from the P5 and other key members whose support he/she needed to be re-elected. Most of all, the rules should allow the General Assembly to hold a vote on a slate of at least two nominations from the Security Council.

Ms. Terlingen said, “the UN Secretary General represents the conscience of the world and plays an important role in helping Member States rise above their national interests.” It is important that his or her selection be as inclusive and representative as possible. To that end, she suggested that parliamentarians should play a role in the process by: holding debates on the qualifications required for the post; by helping identify qualified candidates; by scrutinizing the eventual nominations; by proposing questions to be asked of the candidates at the hearings of the General Assembly; by insisting that the office-holder be free to appoint his/her cabinet based on merit alone (i.e., not as patronage appointments); by advocating a single term of office; and by insisting that the Security Council submit more than one recommendation to the General Assembly, thus making the process more democratic.

In his response, Mr. Kosachev cautioned that any changes to the current system must be carefully considered bearing in mind the long-term consequences. The new process for 2016, which would lead to the appointment of a new UN Secretary-General effective January 2017, was not the only window of opportunity to effect change. For Mr. Kosachev, the mandate of the UN Secretary-General as defined in the Charter was primarily of an administrative nature, as head of the Secretariat. The UN Secretary-General’s political functions were very limited and subject to guidance from the General Assembly. From that standpoint, it was not aberrant for the UN Secretary-General to be dependent on the membership instead of being empowered to act alone.

According to Mr. Kosachev, regional rotation of the post of UN Secretary-General was welcome so that the whole world would eventually be represented in the position. Gender balance was also welcome, provided the best qualified person was chosen in the end. On the question of term limits, Mr. Kosachev disagreed with the argument that a single term was more empowering than two consecutive terms. On the key question of whether the P5 members of the Security Council should retain the power to veto a nomination, Mr. Kosachev argued that the system was much more constraining than people thought because it forced the P5, and indeed the whole membership of the Security Council, to reach a consensus.

Ms. Ortiz remarked on the discussion from the gender perspective of the selection process. She welcomed the fact that more Member States were supportive of women candidates and hoped that would lead to a woman being elected for the first time in 2016. While noting that the Security Council’s control of the process was undemocratic, Ms. Ortiz expressed concern that the gender composition of the Security Council was another issue that needed to be addressed. If the Council was to remain in control of the selection, and if the selection was equally open to women and men, then the Council itself needed to be reformed to ensure gender parity. A male-dominated Council was less likely to select a woman candidate than one in which women were equally represented.

In the ensuing debate, a few participants expressed general satisfaction with the status quo while most expressed support for further democratization of the appointment process. Those interventions clearly signalled that the selection process must become transparent and involve all Member States, not just those who sat on the Security Council, and reinforced the view that the UN Secretary-General was accountable to the more representative General Assembly. Two interventions went further, recommending that the process should end with a vote by the General Assembly on more than one candidate, as was the practice at the IPU. Three participants supported the idea of a single, non-renewable term.

The participants expressed strong support for women candidates to be considered. One intervention specifically suggested that the focus should not be limited to inviting women candidates but more importantly to making sure a woman was actually elected. Several UN agencies had been or were being led by women and there was no question as to the availability of highly qualified women to take on the top job of UN Secretary-General. To ensure gender balance in the outcome of the selection process, one delegate suggested that a gender “rotation” should be instituted so that the post would alternate between a man and a woman (i.e. admitting only male candidates or only female candidates on each occasion).

Participants underscored that parliaments should have a role in the selection process. Several speakers expressed support for many of Ms. Terlingen's recommendations, particularly the idea that parliaments should hold debates on their governments' nominees and even submit their own proposals. A specific suggestion was that parliaments needed to support the UN Secretary-General in his/her efforts to implement key administrative reforms that were required to strengthen the United Nations.

Concluding the debate, participants asked the IPU to transmit the following three questions to all candidates in the running in 2016:

1. Agenda 2030 will be successful if members of parliament are involved in the development of their national action plans, in monitoring implementation, and in aligning budgets and legislation to the agenda. As UNSG, will you advocate among Member States for parliamentary engagement in the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda and attendant SDGs?
2. Numerous UN General Assembly resolutions and UN Secretary-General reports recommend a strong relationship between the United Nations and national parliaments, as well as with the IPU. As UN Secretary-General, what specific actions would you take to strengthen these relationships at the global and national levels to more effectively serve the people?
3. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians want to ensure a more democratic UN Secretary-General selection process. How do you think parliamentarians, through the IPU, as the world organization of parliaments, can have a role in this process?

**Session 2: Briefing on the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

**Mr. L. Borbely**, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies of Romania; **Ms. P. Torsney**, Head of the Office of the Permanent Observer of the IPU to the United Nations; **Mr. Alessandro Motter**, Senior Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs, IPU; **Mr. C. Chauvel**, Parliamentary Advisor, Democratic Governance Group, UNDP.

Following a decision of the Bureau at the October 2015 session, the overarching aim of the session was to provide the Committee with a structure enabling it to work as the IPU's main body for a regular review of SDGs implementation over the next 15 years. The panel presented various approaches and elaborated on concrete suggestions.

After presenting an overview of various new or established review mechanisms, Mr. Motter described the entry points for parliaments to engage in SDGs implementation at three levels: national, regional and global. At the national level, a key role for parliaments was to deepen national ownership of the goals and to ensure a national plan to localize the goals were firmly in place. Key to the accountability role of parliaments was the fact that their governments presented to them an annual report of progress on the implementation of the plan. At the global level, he noted that parliaments had an opportunity to contribute to the work of the new High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development that would be the main UN hub for an annual global progress review. Among other things, parliaments should participate in national voluntary reviews and join their national delegations to HLPF sessions.

An initial step all parliaments could take towards implementation was to adopt a motion or a resolution on the SDGs. Mr. Avsan introduced a template resolution the IPU has prepared. He noted that the parliaments of Mali and Trinidad and Tobago had already adopted resolutions and encouraged all delegations to follow suit. He reported that several members of the Bureau, such as those from Canada, Sudan, Morocco, Norway and Sweden, had pledged to table a resolution in 2016.

The IPU was gearing up to help parliaments institutionalize the SDGs. Ms. Torsney provided one illustration in the form of a self-assessment toolkit the IPU intended to publish in May. She invited interested members to provide feedback to her on the toolkit, which was still in draft form. The delegations of Mali and Lesotho expressed an interest in being part of that exercise.

Exploring the regional level of implementation and review, Mr. Borbely highlighted the case of the Eastern European region. His parliament was host to a regional conference on the SDGs in 2015 and would again convene a meeting in April 2016. He noted how all SDG-related processes

presented an opportunity to strengthen parliaments' accountability role. In his parliament, the sub-committee on sustainable development would play a key role in mainstreaming the SDGs in the committee system, thus strengthening policy coherence. He urged the IPU to integrate the SDGs in its new five-year strategy and to focus on assisting parliaments in institutionalizing the SDGs in their day-to-day work.

For his part, Mr. Chauvel outlined how the United Nations was gearing up to help parliaments implement the SDGs at the country level. He recalled that the 2030 Agenda rested on open, inclusive and participatory reporting, a people-centered approach, and evidence-based support. He noted that there was strong agreement in principle that parliaments were a key stakeholder in implementation, along with civil society and other actors, but that would not translate automatically into action to engage or support the parliaments. Proactive efforts would be required. Some of the impetus would need to come from citizens themselves. The United Nations would retool the existing My World survey facility so that people could use it to provide feedback on government policy and services directly to their members of parliament.

The following delegations participated in the debate: Cuba, France, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, South Africa, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Zimbabwe. They elaborated on some of the points made by the panel with further ideas and suggestions. Several comments in particular pointed to the need to strengthen parliaments to allow them to play a strong role in implementation. Two interventions elaborated on the role of the national sustainable development plan as the centerpiece of implementation in each country.

It was agreed that each spring session of the Committee on United Nations Affairs would henceforth be utilized to perform three basic tasks: to take stock of global progress on the SDGs (UN reports); to prepare concerned parliaments for the voluntary national reviews to the HLPF; to prompt parliaments to perform a self-assessment of their capacity to implement the SDGs and to showcase best practices.

**Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status:  
one of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of France and  
Uruguay for the inclusion of an emergency item**

**R e s u l t s**

Affirmative votes.....	938	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	995
Negative votes .....	57	Two-thirds majority.....	663
Abstentions .....	206		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Haiti	11			Poland	15		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	13			Portugal	13		
Algeria			15	Iceland	10			Qatar	4		4
Andorra	10			India	10			Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Angola	12			Indonesia	<i>Absent</i>			Romania	10		
Australia	14			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation	20		
Austria	12			Israel	12			Rwanda			12
Bahrain	10			Italy	17			San Marino	<i>Absent</i>		
Bangladesh	20			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe	5	5	
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Saudi Arabia			14
Belgium	13			Kenya			15	Senegal	10		
Benin	10			Kuwait	7		4	Serbia	10		
Bhutan	<i>Absent</i>			Latvia	11			Seychelles			10
Bolivia	12			Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			Sierra Leone	<i>Absent</i>		
Botswana			11	Lesotho	11			Singapore	<i>Absent</i>		
Brazil	<i>Absent</i>			Libya		10		Slovenia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Liechtenstein	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa			17
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Lithuania	11			Spain	15		
Burundi	<i>Absent</i>			Luxembourg	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cambodia	13			Madagascar	14			Sudan		15	
Cameroon	13			Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname	10		
Canada	15			Malaysia	<i>Absent</i>			Sweden	12		
Chile	13			Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			Switzerland	12		
China	23			Mali	13			Thailand	18		
Comoros	10			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mauritania			10	Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Cuba	13			Mauritius	9			Tunisia	<i>Absent</i>		
Cyprus	10			Mexico	20			Turkey	11		7
Czech Republic	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda		13	
DR of the Congo	10		7	Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Ukraine	<i>Absent</i>		
DPR of Korea	<i>Absent</i>			Morocco	15			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark	12			Mozambique			13	United Kingdom	18		
Egypt	15	4		Namibia	11			United Republic of Tanzania	10		
Equatorial Guinea	10			Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			Uruguay	11		
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Venezuela	15		
Ethiopia			19	New Zealand	11			Viet Nam	19		
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria		10		Zambia			13
Finland	12			Norway	<i>Absent</i>			Zimbabwe			13
France	18			Oman			11				
Gabon			11	Pakistan	21						
Germany	19			Palestine	11						
Ghana	<i>Absent</i>			Panama	10						
Guinea	<i>Absent</i>										
Guinea-Bissau	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.

## Human trafficking: An act of terrorism, a grave violation of human rights and human dignity, and a threat to regional and international peace and security

### Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Sudan for the inclusion of an emergency item

#### Results

Affirmative votes.....	761	Total of affirmative and negative votes .....	941
Negative votes .....	180	Two-thirds majority .....	627
Abstentions .....	260		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			Haiti	11			Poland			15
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Hungary	7		6	Portugal	13		
Algeria	15			Iceland		10		Qatar	8		
Andorra			10	India	10			Republic of Korea	<i>Absent</i>		
Angola	12			Indonesia	<i>Absent</i>			Romania		10	
Australia			14	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	18			Russian Federation			20
Austria	12			Israel		12		Rwanda	12		
Bahrain	10			Italy			17	San Marino	<i>Absent</i>		
Bangladesh	20			Japan	20			Sao Tome and Principe	5	5	
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Saudi Arabia	14		
Belgium		13		Kenya	15			Senegal	10		
Benin			10	Kuwait	11			Serbia			10
Bhutan	<i>Absent</i>			Latvia			11	Seychelles	10		
Bolivia	12			Lebanon	<i>Absent</i>			Sierra Leone	<i>Absent</i>		
Botswana	11			Lesotho			11	Singapore	<i>Absent</i>		
Brazil	<i>Absent</i>			Libya	10			Slovenia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Liechtenstein	<i>Absent</i>			South Africa	17		
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Lithuania			11	Spain	5		10
Burundi	<i>Absent</i>			Luxembourg	<i>Absent</i>			Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cambodia	13			Madagascar	14			Sudan	15		
Cameroon	13			Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Suriname	10		
Canada		15		Malaysia	<i>Absent</i>			Sweden		12	
Chile			13	Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			Switzerland	3		9
China	18		5	Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Thailand	18		
Comoros	10			Mauritania	10			Timor-Leste	11		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Mauritius	9			Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Cuba	13			Mexico	8	12		Tunisia	<i>Absent</i>		
Cyprus	5		5	Micronesia (Fed. States of)	<i>Absent</i>			Turkey	7		11
Czech Republic	13			Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	13		
DR of the Congo	7		10	Morocco	15			Ukraine	<i>Absent</i>		
DPR of Korea	<i>Absent</i>			Mozambique	13			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark		12		Namibia	11			United Kingdom		18	
Egypt	19			Nepal	<i>Absent</i>			United Republic of Tanzania	10		
Equatorial Guinea	10			Netherlands		13		Uruguay		11	
Estonia			11	New Zealand	3		8	Venezuela	15		
Ethiopia	19			Nigeria	10			Viet Nam	19		
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	<i>Absent</i>			Zambia	13		
Finland			12	Oman	11			Zimbabwe	13		
France		18		Pakistan			21				
Gabon	11			Palestine	11						
Germany		19		Panama			10				
Ghana	<i>Absent</i>										
Guinea	<i>Absent</i>										
Guinea-Bissau	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.

## Giving an identity to the 230 million children without a civil status: One of the major challenges of the humanitarian crisis in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

The 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Alarmed* by the existence, according to UNICEF estimates, of more than 230 million children under five years of age without a legal identity because they were not registered at birth and by the fact that one in every seven children registered in the world does not have a birth certificate attesting to his/her legal identity,

*Observing* that without a civil status, these children are severely hampered throughout their lives (unable to go to school, vote, marry, receive welfare benefits, inherit, etc.) and fall victim to trafficking (illegal adoption, prostitution and criminal networks), which is further exacerbated in situations of humanitarian crisis,

*Considering* that having a reliable, comprehensive and lasting civil registry is a necessary prerequisite for drawing up credible electoral lists and, as a consequence, the legitimacy of electoral processes,

*Concerned* about the “black holes” in statistics caused by the absence of registration of these children, which disrupts the planning and the management of public services for children,

*Recalling* different provisions and instruments under international law, in particular:

- Article 24, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted on 16 December 1966 by the UN General Assembly,
- Article 7, paragraph 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989,
- Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which the IPU fully supports, including target 16.9, “By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration”,
- the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Protocols, especially the Fourth Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
- the 1977 Protocol relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts,

*Also alarmed* by the tremendous impact of humanitarian crises, particularly in situations of conflict, on the most vulnerable groups, especially women and children,

*Convinced* of the absolute need to fully meet the needs of those children in terms of assistance and protection through the mandates of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to request their governments to put in place measures to inform parents of the need to register children at birth and remove all barriers to the registration of children in registry offices regardless of nationality, race, ethnicity, language, religion or social status;
2. *Requests* parliaments to adopt laws to ensure the issuance of birth certificates free of charge or, at least, to reduce to a minimum the cost of birth registration;
3. *Calls for* registry offices to be set up as close as possible to homes by distributing them throughout the country with as a wide coverage as possible;
4. *Recommends* that parliaments take measures to allow women to register births;
5. *Calls for* support for the implementation of applications for mobile devices that allow authorized persons (e.g. midwives, village leaders and school principals) to register births;

6. *Invites* parliaments to promote campaigns on regularizing the status of children without a legal identity through roving public hearings that move from village to village;
7. *Calls on* parliaments ensure adequate funding for civil registry, including moving towards the digitization of registration where possible;
8. *Urges* in particular parties to armed conflict to respect schools and hospitals and to provide unrestricted access for humanitarian assistance and to give humanitarian personnel all the facilities required to carry out their work;
9. *Calls on* governments and parties to conflict to meet their obligations in conformity with international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the obligations set forth in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005;
10. *Strongly urges* the IPU to commit to monitoring developments on this issue.

## Presidential Statement

*Endorsed by the 134<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Lusaka, 23 March 2016)*

We, Member Parliaments of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, utterly condemn the terrorist attack today in Brussels. Once again, many innocent lives have been lost and scores of people have been wounded. This wanton act of violence is unconscionable.

What has happened today is another brutal assault on democracy and core human values. We convey our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, and express our solidarity with the people and authorities of Belgium.

We are gravely concerned by the escalation in acts of violent extremism which have killed more than 140,000 people since 2001.

We call for urgent action to counter the growing number of people being drawn towards such cowardly and despicable acts and for all political leaders to work together to find effective means of safeguarding the lives of their citizens.

IPU also urges all community leaders to clearly and actively engage with their followers in order to promote peace, democratic engagement, and respect for human life. Recourse to all forms of violence must be condemned outright. Alternative and peaceful means of political expression must be found.

We at IPU pledge to do our utmost to better engage all groups in society in our social and political processes. We will work to make our parliaments more representative so that all voices and concerns are addressed in the one institution where political differences can be resolved through discussion and negotiation.

Tomorrow, this Assembly will be adopting a resolution on the need to enhance global cooperation on terrorism in order to counter the threat to democracy and individual rights. The attack today has underlined in the most tragic way possible the critical relevance and timeliness of this resolution. We must all make sure that after leaving Lusaka, we take resolute and effective action to counter this global menace by following up on commitments made here.

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS** ***LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS***

Mr./M. Patrick Matibini

President of the National Assembly of Zambia  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale de la Zambie*

President of the 134<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Président de la 134<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr./M. Saber Chowdhury

President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Président de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr./M. Martin Chungong

Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire*

**I. MEMBERS - MEMBRES****AFGHANISTAN**

IRFAN, Irfanullah (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
MAJEEDI, Gul Badshah (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
SAEEDI, Agha Jan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
KAROUKHI, Masooda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
MOHAMMAD, Hashim Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
PEDRAM, Abdul Latif (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
TARAKHAIL, Hatam (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens</i>
GAINWAL, Jamadin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Elders Telecommunications Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens</i> <i>Commission des télécommunications</i>
KHAN, Latif (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Elders International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des anciens</i> <i>Commission des relations internationales</i>
NASRAT, Khudai Nazar (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre du peuple</i>
HASHIMI, S.Hafizullah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Elders <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des anciens</i>
HUSSAINI, Samiullah (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, International Relations, House of the People <i>Directeur, Relations internationales, Chambre du peuple</i>
YAQOUBI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
AMINZADA, Mohammad Masoom (Mr./M.)	Chief of Staff of the Secretary General <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Secrétaire général</i>
HASHIMI, Najibullah (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Senate <i>Chargé du protocole, Sénat</i>

**ALBANIA – ALBANIE**

PALOKA, Edi (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
RAMA, Luan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
MUHEDINI, Tahir (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>

**ALGERIA - ALGERIE**

BENBADIS, Fawzia (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Nation <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil de la Nation</i>
BOUCHELAGHEM, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation (RND)</i>

MANI, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Nation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Nation</i>
MEFTALI, Yamina (Ms./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN)</i>
CHIHEB, Seddik (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SLIMANI, Bachir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National People's Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
BOUREGBA, Aissa (Mr./M.)	Head of the Speaker's Office, Council of the Nation <i>Chef de cabinet du Président du Conseil de la Nation</i>
SIBACHIR, Noureddine (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Executive Assistant, National People's Assembly <i>Chargé d'études et de synthèse, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>

(RND: National Democratic Rally / Rassemblement National Démocratique)  
(FLN: National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale)

**ANDORRA - ANDORRE**

MATEU ZAMORA, Vicenç (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the General Council <i>Président du Conseil général (DA)</i>
ALIS, Gerard (Mr./M.)	Member of the General Council <i>Membre du Conseil général (PS)</i>
ARASA, Eva (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Protocol Officer, General Council <i>Chargée du protocole, Conseil général</i>

(DA: DA: Democrats for Andorra / Démocrates pour Andorre)  
(PS: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

**ANGOLA**

BENTO, Bento (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
DANDA, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNITA)</i>
ELIAS, Carolina (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
JOSÉ, Larissa (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
TITO, Lindo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Casa-CE)</i>
YABA, Alberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)</i>
DOMINGOS, Dilizia (Ms./Mme) Adviser to the Delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	
N'SENDE, Joao Daniel (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>

(MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération 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)

**AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE**

SCOTT, Bruce (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (N)</i>
BERNARDI, Cory (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (LPA)</i>
LINES, Sue (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (ALP)</i>
MARINO, Nola (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LPA)</i>
FERGUSON, Laurie (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ALP)</i>
SURTEES, Claressa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RUTTLEY, Elysia (Ms./Mme)	Adviser to the Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère du Vice-Président, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HALLETT, Brien (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>

(N: Liberal National Coalition / Coalition libérale-nationale)

(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)

(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien)

**AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE**

SCHIEDER, Andreas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)</i>
KARLSBÖCK, Andreas (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (FPÖ)</i>
LOPATKA, Reinhold (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (ÖVP)</i>
MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (Grüne)</i>
BRENNER, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)	Head of EU and International Services <i>Chef des Services européens et internationaux</i>
RUND, Petra (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
GUENTHER, Harald (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

(SPÖ: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(FPÖ: Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté)

(ÖVP: Conservatives / Conservateurs)

(Grüne: Green Party / Les Verts)

**BAHRAIN - BAHREIN**

FAKHROO, Jamal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council <i>Premier Vice-Président du Conseil Consultatif</i>
HUSAIN, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
ALJOWDER, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALDOSERI, Abdulla (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des représentants</i>
ALMAHMEED, Mahmeed (Mr./M.)	Communication Director, Council of Representatives <i>Directeur de la communication, Conseil des représentants</i>

**BANGLADESH**

CHAUDHURY, Shirin Sharmin (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chair of the Business Advisory Committee Chair of the Standing Committee on Privileges Chair of the Committee on Petitions <i>Présidente du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Présidente du Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente des privilèges</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des pétitions</i>
ERSHAD, Raushan (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Business Advisory Committee Standing Committee on Privileges <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission permanente des privilèges</i>
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente</i> <i>des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning Library Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente</i> <i>du Ministère de la planification</i> <i>Commission de bibliothèque</i>
CHOWDHURY, Md. Nazrul Islam (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'aviation civile</i> <i>et du tourisme</i>
CHOWDHURY, A B M Fazle Karim (Mr./M.) President of the Committee on the Human Rights of the Parliamentarians <i>Président du Comité des droits de l'homme</i> <i>des parlementaires</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Railways Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère</i> <i>des chemins de fer</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de</i> <i>l'administration publique</i>
RAHMAN, Naimur A M (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>

MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr./M.)  
IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH  
*Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant*

Member of Parliament  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare  
*Membre du Parlement (AL)*  
*Commission permanente du Ministère de la protection sociale*

KALAM, Md. Abul (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Primary and Mass Education  
*Membre du Parlement (AL)*  
*Commission permanente du Ministère de l'enseignement primaire et de l'éducation de masse*

IMAM, Tanveer (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism  
*Membre du Parlement (AL)*  
*Commission permanente du Ministère de l'aviation civile et du tourisme*

WADUD, Md. Abdul (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Food  
Standing Committee on Ministry of Finance  
*Membre du Parlement (AL)*  
*Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère de l'alimentation*  
*Commission permanente du Ministère des finances*

MANNAN, Rowshan Ara (Ms./Mme)  
Adviser  
*Conseillère*

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement*

UDDIN, Salim (Mr./M.)  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement*

HOWLADER, Md. Abdur Rob (Mr./M.)  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP  
*Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*

HASAN, Mohammad Mamun (Mr./M.)

Public Relations Officer to the Leader of the Opposition, Parliament  
*Chargé des relations publiques auprès du Chef de l'opposition, Parlement*

ZAW, Swe Min (Mr./M.)

Assistant Private Secretary to the Speaker, Parliament  
*Secrétaire particulier adjoint de la Présidente, Parlement*

CHOWDHURY, Shabbir Ahmad (Mr./M.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)  
(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

## BELARUS

GERASIMOVICH, Svetlana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Council of the Republic  
Chairperson of the Regional Policy and Local Self-Government Committee  
*Membre du Conseil de la République*  
*Présidente de la Commission de la politique régionale et de l'autonomie locale*

BUSKO, Vitaly (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Chairman of the Standing Commission on International  
Affairs*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants**Président de la Commission permanente des affaires  
internationales*

ALESHKO, Hanna (Ms./Mme)

Advisor to the Delegation

*Conseillère de la délégation*

Advisor, Council of the Republic

*Conseillère, Conseil de la République***BELGIUM - BELGIQUE**

VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Pol (Mr./M.)

President of the Group

Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

*Président du Groupe**Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre*

Member of the Senate

Chairman of the Committee on Cross-cutting Issues -  
Community Competences

Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs

Parliamentary Committee on the Legislative Follow-up

*Membre du Sénat (N-VA)**Président de la Commission des matières transversales -  
Compétences communautaires**Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes**Comité parlementaire chargé du suivi législatif*

DESTEXHE, Alain (Mr./M.)

Vice-President of the Group, IPU Advisory

Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH

*Vice-Président du Groupe, Groupe consultatif**sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du  
nouveau-né et de l'enfant*

Member of the Senate

Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional  
Competences

Federal Advisory Committee on European Affairs

Special Committee on Radicalisation

*Membre du Sénat (MR)**Commission des Matières transversales - Compétences  
régionales**Comité d'avis fédéral chargé des questions européennes**Commission spéciale "Radicalisation"*

MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.)

President of the Twelve Plus Group

*Président du Groupe des Douze Plus*

Member of the Senate

Chairman of the Federal Advisory Committee on  
European Affairs

Committee on Institutional Affairs

Special Committee on Radicalisation

*Membre du Sénat (PS)**Président du Comité d'avis fédéral chargé  
des questions européennes**Commission des affaires institutionnelles**Commission spéciale "Radicalisation"*

BATTHEU, Sabien (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

Deputy Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure,  
Communications and State EnterprisesCommittee on the Interior, General Affairs and the Civil  
ServiceSelect Committee on Rules and Reform of Parliamentary  
Proceedings*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Open VLD)**Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'Infrastructure, des  
communications et des entreprises publiques**Commission de l'intérieur, des affaires générales et de la  
Fonction publique**Commission spéciale du Règlement et de la réforme du  
travail parlementaire*

DESEYN, Roel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair of the Accounting Committee Committee on Finance and Budget Advisory Committee on Science and Technology Issues <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CD&amp;V)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la comptabilité</i> <i>Commission des finances et du budget</i> <i>Comité d'avis des questions scientifiques et technologiques</i>
HONDEQUIN, Hugo (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and to the Delegation, Secretary of the Twelve Plus Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation,</i> <i>Secrétaire du Groupe des Douze Plus</i>	Director, Senate <i>Directeur, Sénat</i>
PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director, House of Representatives <i>Premier Conseiller de direction, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MICHAUX, Anne (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Twelve Plus Group <i>Conseillère au Groupe des Douze Plus</i>	Senior Adviser, Senate <i>Première Conseillère, Sénat</i>

(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande / Nieuw-Vlaamse Alliantie)

(MR: Movement for Reform / Mouvement Réformateur)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(Open VLD: Flemish Liberals / Libéraux flamands / Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten)

(CD&amp;V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands / Christen-Democratisch en Vlaams)

**BENIN**

AGONKAN, Gildas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RB)</i>
AFFO, Pascal Amédée Léon (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
BOTON, Barthélémy (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>

(RB: Rebirth of Benin / Renaissance du Bénin)

**BHUTAN - BHOUTAN**

ZANGPO, Jigme (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)</i>
DORJEE, Kesang (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i>
TSHERING, Kaka (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national</i>
GURUNG, Gopal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)</i>
TAMANG, Yogesh (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)</i>
JAMTSO, Rinzin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DHENDUP, Sampa (Mr./M.)	Committee Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire de commission, Assemblée nationale</i>

DUBA, Sangay (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale*

(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

**BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF) – BOLIVIE (ETAT PLURINATIONAL DE)**

MENDOZA FERNÁNDEZ, Edith (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

CHOQUE TARQUE, Hebert (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

**BOTSWANA**

KOKORWE, Gladys K.T. (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 (BDP)*

BOKO, Duma G. (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente  
des Affaires des Nations Unies*

Member of the National Assembly  
Portfolio Committee on Labour and Home Affairs  
Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight  
Committee of Selection  
Business Advisory Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)*  
*Comité du portefeuille du travail et des affaires internes*  
*Comité du portefeuille de la gouvernance et de la  
surveillance*  
*Comité de sélection*

GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr./M.)

*Comité consultatif sur les affaires*  
Member of the National Assembly  
Portfolio Committee on Trade, Finance and Economic  
Development  
Finance and Estimates Committee  
Public Accounts Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)*  
*Comité du portefeuille du commerce, des finances et du  
développement économique*  
*Comité des finances et des prévisions budgétaires*  
*Comité des comptes publics*

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chairperson, member of the Parliamentary Caucus on  
Women, Inter Parliamentary Union  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)*

DINGALO, Raphael D. (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Clerk, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale*

NFILA, Christopher S. (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Assistant Clerk, Parliamentary Committees, National  
Assembly  
*Greffier adjoint, commissions parlementaires,  
Assemblée nationale*

SAUBI, Babui (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Senior Clerk Assistant (Research), National Assembly  
*Fonctionnaire principale, Service de recherche,  
Assemblée nationale*

MOKALAKE, Lebonaamang T. (Mr./M.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent*

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

#### BRAZIL - BRESIL

CARVALHO, Mariana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSDB)*

ANCHIETA, Shéridan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSDB)*

LINS, Atila (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SPD)*

Vice-President of the Group

Member of the Executive Committee

*Vice-Président du Groupe*

*Membre du Comité exécutif*

VASCONCELOS, Jarbas (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

OLIVEIRA, Ariadne (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, Chamber of Deputies  
*Conseillère, Chambre des Députés*

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

ARAUJO, Silvia (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, Federal Senate  
*Conseillère, Sénat fédéral*

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

RANDIG, Rodrigo (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(PSDB: Brazilian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate brésilien)

(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

#### BULGARIA - BULGARIE

GLAVCHEV, Dimitar (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Budget and Finance Committee  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (GERB)*  
*Commission du budget et des finances*

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

KARAKACHANOV, Krasimir (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Defence Committee  
Internal Security and Public Order Committee  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (NFSB-VMRO)*  
*Commission de la défense*  
*Commission de la sécurité et de l'ordre public*

ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Mrs./Mme)

State Expert, International Relations and Protocol  
Directorate, National Assembly  
*Experte auprès de l'Etat, Direction des relations*  
*internationales et du protocole, Assemblée nationale*

Administrative Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire administrative du Groupe*

GIKOVA-MARINCHEVA, Vera (Mrs./Mme)

Adviser to the Deputy Speaker, National Assembly  
*Conseillère du Vice-Président, Assemblée nationale*

SLAVCHOV, Ivan (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie)

(NFSB-VMRO: Patriotic front / Front patriotique)

#### BURKINA FASO

DIALLO, Salifou (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)*

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

BAKYONO, Bienvenue (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)</i>
ABGA, Armand (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPC)</i>
NOMBRE, Alphonse (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)</i>
OUATTARA, Lassina (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)</i>
OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)</i>
OUEDRAOGO SAWADOGO, Honorine W. (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAREN)</i>
TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)</i>
PARE, Noufou (Mr./M.)	Protocol Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Diplomacy Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
ZOBILMA, Emma (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
SAWADOGO, Thomas (Mr./M.)	
Aide de camp	
NACOULMA, Anatole (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MOGMENGA, Oumarou (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Presse</i>	

(MPP: Mouvement du peuple pour le progrès / People's Movement for Progress)  
(UPC: Union pour le progrès et le changement / Union for Progress and Change)  
(CDP: Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès / Congress for Democracy and Progress)  
(PAREN: Parti de la renaissance nationale / National Rebirth Party)

**BURUNDI**

NYABENDA, Pascal (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD/FDD)</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr./M.)	Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
NIZIGIYIMANA, Benoîte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
RUHUNA, Venant (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
IRAKOZE, Lydia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NIYONZIMA, Constatin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CNDD/FDD)</i>
ASHA, Khalafan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol <i>Chef du protocole</i>
BIMENYIMANA, Prosper (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Senate <i>Chargé du protocole, Sénat</i>
HABIMANA, Silas Innocent (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Department of Sitings, Official Records and Sound Systems <i>Conseiller au Service des séances, comptes-rendus et sonorisation</i>
HAVYARIMANA, Venuste (Mr./M.)	Assistant
SINZINKAYO, Gilbert (Mr./M.)	

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*  
NIYONKURU, Apollinaire (Mr./M.)  
Press / *Presse*  
NDAYIHIMBAZE, Alexis Badian (Mr./M.)  
Press / *Presse*

(CNDD: National Council for the Defence of Democracy / Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie)  
(FDD: Front for the Defence of Democracy / Forces pour la défense de la démocratie)

**CAMBODIA - CAMBODGE**

YANG, Sem (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, Complaint Reception, Investigation <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des droits de l'homme,</i> <i>de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes</i>
PUM, Sichan (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
TIOULONG, Saumura (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du</i> <i>développement durable, du financement et du</i> <i>commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires</i> <i>étrangères, de la coopération internationale, de</i> <i>l'information et des médias</i>
SRUN, Dara (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary-General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)	Director, Senate <i>Directeur, Sénat</i>
KHLANG, Oudam (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
YAN, Phoumika (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Relations Office, National Assembly <i>Chef adjoint du Bureau des relations internationales,</i> <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Sochetra (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Senate <i>Assistant, Sénat</i>
OUM, Sarith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>

**CAMEROON - CAMEROUN**

TJOUES, Geneviève (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
ADAMOU DOUDOU, Hamadjabou (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
NKODO, Laurent (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
TANTSE TAGNE, Bernard (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (SDF)</i>
AHIDJO, Oumoul Koultchoumi (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)</i>

EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent De Paul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
FOTSO, Joséphine (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
MBITA MVAEBEME, Lippert Daniel R. (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
INDJECK, Daniel (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Research Fellow, Assistant to the Presidency of the Republic <i>Chargé d'études, Assistant à la présidence de la République</i>
ESSEBA, Cyriaque (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
ETOGA, Ursule (Ms./Mrs.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administrative du Groupe</i>	Administrative Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire administrative du Sénat</i>

(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)

(SDF: Front social démocratique / Social Democratic Front)

(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union nationale pour la démocratie et le progrès)

### CANADA

ERSKINE-SMITH, Nathaniel (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Commons Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (LPC)</i> <i>Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique</i> <i>Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale</i> <i>Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique</i>
ATAULLAHJAN, Salma (Ms./Mme) Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Committee Library of Parliament Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (CPC)</i> <i>Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce international</i> <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de la personne</i> <i>Comité de la bibliothèque du Parlement</i>
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee Chair of the Transport and Communications Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (LPC)</i> <i>Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce international</i> <i>Président du Comité des transports et des communications</i>

CALKINS, Blaine (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
 Chair of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics  
 Chair of the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics  
 Liaison Committee  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)*  
*Président du Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique*  
*Président, Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du Comité permanent de l'accès à l'information, de la protection des renseignements personnels et de l'éthique*  
*Comité de liaison*

RANKIN, Murray (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
 Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
 Vice-Chair of the Special Joint Committee on Physician-Assisted Dying  
 Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP)*  
*Vice-Président du Comité permanent de la justice et des droits de la personne*  
*Vice-Président du Comité ad hoc sur l'aide médicale à la mort*  
*Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du Comité permanent de la justice et des droits de la personne*

SHIPLEY, Bev (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
 Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)*  
*Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire*

SPENGEMANN, Sven (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
 Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security  
 Standing Committee on National Defence  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (LPC)*  
*Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale*  
*Comité permanent de la défense nationale*

BOSC, Marc (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

FORGE, Frédéric (Mr./M.)

Advisor of the Group  
*Conseiller du Groupe*

GRAVEL, Line (Mr./M.)

Executive Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe*

ROBERT, Charles (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Analyst, Library of Parliament,  
*Analyste, Bibliothèque du Parlement*

Senate Clerk  
*Greffière au Sénat*

Clerk of the Senate and Clerk of the Parliaments  
*Greffier du Sénat et des parlements*

(LPC: Liberal Party of Canada / Parti libéral du Canada)

(CPC: Conservative Party of Canada / Parti conservateur du Canada)

(NDP: New Democratic Party / Nouveau parti démocratique)

**CHILE - CHILI**

LEÓN, Roberto (Mr./M.) President of the Grulac, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Grulac, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies National Defence Committee President of the Housing and Urban Development Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i> <i>Président de la Commission du logement et du développement urbain</i>
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Transport and Telecommunications Committee President of the Labour and Social Welfare Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des transports et des télécommunications</i> <i>Président de la Commission du travail et de la prévoyance sociale</i>
BARROS, Ramón (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Agriculture Committee Labour and Social Security Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i>
LETELIER, Felipe, (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committee Agriculture Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PPD)</i> <i>Comité des droits de la personne</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i>
GARCÍA, René Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Housing and Urban Development Committee Public Works Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (RN)</i> <i>Commission du logement et du développement urbain</i> <i>Commission des travaux publics</i>
PASCAL, Denise (Ms./Mme) President of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Présidente du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Labour and Social Security Committee Family and Elderly Committee Internal Government and Administration Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la sécurité sociale</i> <i>Commission de la famille et des aînés</i> <i>Commission du gouvernement interne et de l'administration</i>
LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
PEILLARD, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Foreign Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directrice des relations étrangères, Chambre des Députés</i>

(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(UDI: Independent Democratic Union / Union démocratique indépendante)

(PPD: Party for Democracy / Parti pour la démocratie)

(RN: National Renewal / Rénovation nationale)

**CHINA - CHINE**

ZHANG, Dejiang (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Chairman of the National People's Congress <i>Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WANG, Chen (Mr./M.)	Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
FU, Ying (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHANG, Yesui (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
SHEN, Chunyao (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
CHEN, Guomin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WANG, Xiaochu (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
HE, Yehui (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHANG, Jian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National People's Congress <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
GUO, Weiping (Mr./M.)	Secretary of the Chairman, National People's Congress <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
JIN, Junmin (Mr./M.)	Chief Security Adviser to the Chairman, National People's Congress <i>Conseiller principal pour la sécurité, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
HU, Xiaoli (Mr./M.)	Director-General of the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the General Office of the NPC Standing Committee <i>Directeur général du Bureau des affaires étrangères du Bureau général de la Commission permanente de l'APN</i>
SUN, Juan (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary, Department of Translation and Interpretation, MFA <i>Secrétaire, Département de la traduction et de l'interprétation, MAE</i>

**COMOROS – COMORES**

OUSSENI, Abdou (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Assembly of the Union <i>Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
CHARIF, Maoulana (Mr./M.)	First Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Union <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
AMIRDINE, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur du Cabinet du Président</i>
SAID ALI, Fairise (Ms./Mme)	Technical Adviser to the Speaker <i>Conseillère technique du Président</i>
DAROUSSE, Amir (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Président</i>	

**COTE D'IVOIRE - COTE D'IVOIRE**

AGBRE, Touni Jean Albert (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on External Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR) Commission des relations extérieures</i>
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GNANGBO, Kacou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Esp)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques et financières</i>
SIAKA, Ouattara (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on General and Institutional Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR)</i> <i>Commission des affaires générales et institutionnelles</i>
YACE DEMEL, Laurette Andrée (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Security and Defence <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI/RDA)</i> <i>Commission de la sécurité et de la défense</i>
ZIMBRIL, Kouamenan Alphonse (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on External Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI/RDA)</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
ACAKPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure Yaovi (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Legislative Services, National Assembly <i>Directeur des Services législatifs, Assemblée nationale</i>

(RDR: Rally of Republicans / Rassemblement des Républicains)  
(Esp: Espérance)  
(PDCI/RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire / Parti Démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)

**CUBA**

FERRER GÓMEZ, Yolanda (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power Chair of the International Relations Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des relations internationales</i>
BARREDO MEDINA, Lázaro (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power International Relations Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i> <i>Commission des relations internationales</i>
MORLOTE RIVAS, Luis (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power Deputy Chair, Committee on Education, Culture, Science, Technology and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, de la science, de la technologie et de l'environnement</i>
PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ, Caridad (Ms./Mme) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	
PÉREZ GONZÁLEZ, Jorge (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

**CYPRUS - CHYPRE**

KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AKEL)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, disparues ou lésées</i>
TASOU, Georgios (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education and Culture <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DISY)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente de l'éducation et de la culture</i>

VARNAVA, George (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (EDEK)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente des affaires de défense</i>
ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale, Chambre des Représentants</i>
CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Mrs./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Relations Officer A' <i>Chargée des Relations internationales A'</i>

(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People-Left-New Forces  
Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses-La Gauche-Nouvelles forces)  
(DISY: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)  
(EDEK: Social Democratic Movement / Mouvement social démocrate)

**CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

HORSKÁ, Miluše (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate Vice-Chair of the Committee on Agenda and Procedure <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (Ind)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission du programme et de la procédure</i>
GROSPÍČ, Stanislav (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chair of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Mandate and Immunity Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CCP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires constitutionnelles et légales, Commission des mandats et des immunités</i>
MALÝ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Education, Science, Human Rights and Petitions Vice-Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity <i>Membre du Sénat (CSSD)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la science, des droits de l'homme et des pétitions</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des mandats et des immunités</i>
ADÁMEK, František (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chair of the Committee on Public Administration and Regional Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CSSD)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'administration publique et du développement régional</i>
MAXOVÁ, Radka (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-Chair of the Committee on Social Policy Committee on Budgetary Control <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ANO 2011)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la politique sociale</i> <i>Commission du contrôle budgétaire</i>
VÁHALOVÁ, Dana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Agriculture Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CSSD)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>

ZLATUŠKA, Jiří (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Chair of the Committee on Education, Culture, Youth  
and Sports*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ANO 2011)*  
*Président de la Commission de l'éducation, de la*  
*culture, de la jeunesse et des sports*

KYNSTETR, Petr (Mr./M.)

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

UKLEIN, Jiří (Mr./M.)

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

(CCP: Czech Communist Party / Parti communiste tchèque)

(CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(ANO 2011: Yes 2011 /Oui 2011)

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA**  
**REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE**

RI, Jong Hyok (Mr./M.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême*

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

JONG, Chun Gun (Mr./M.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême*

HYON, Jong Ung (Mr./M.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême*

KIM, Hak Song (Mr./M.)

Member of the Supreme People's Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême*

CHOE, Yong Min (Mr./M.)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
*Fonctionnaire au Ministère des affaires étrangères***DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO**

MOKOLO WA MPOMBO, Edouard (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Senate  
*Vice-Président du Sénat*

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

NKOY MAFUTA, Bernadette (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (MLC)*

KITWA IDA, Godalena (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Political, Administrative and Legal Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FSIR)*  
*Commission politique, administrative et juridique*

MATADIWAMBA KAMBA, Tharcisse (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Political, Administrative and Legal Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*  
*Commission politique, administrative et juridique*

MBUKU LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Economy, Finance and Budget Control Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)*  
*Commission économique et financière et contrôle*  
*budgétaire*Committee on the Human Rights of  
Parliamentarians*Comité des droits de l'homme des*  
*parlementaires*

BYAZA-SANDA, David (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the Senate  
*Secrétaire général du Sénat*

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*  
KATAKO MASUDI, Josué (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*  
Head of Cabinet to the First Vice-President  
of the Senate  
*Chef de Cabinet du Premier Vice-Président du Sénat*  
Director, Senior Adviser, Research Office, Senate  
*Directeur, Conseiller principal au Bureau d'Etudes, Sénat*  
Adviser/Coordinator, Research Office, National  
Assembly  
*Conseiller Coordonnateur du Bureau d'étude, Assemblée nationale*  
Documentation Director  
*Directeur de la documentation*  
Parliamentary Adviser, National Assembly  
*Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale*

ABABA NONGA, Gustave (Mr./M.)  
Acting Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administratif a.i. du Groupe*  
KANIKA SUMBAYI, Philibert (Mr./M.)  
Section Joint Secretary  
*Co-secrétaire de la section*

NONDO PONGO, Oscar (Mr./M.)

MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (Mr./M.)

(MLC: Movement for the Liberation of Congo / Mouvement de Libération du Congo)  
(FSIR: Social Front of Independent Republicans / Front Social des Indépendants Républicains)  
(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)

### DENMARK - DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable  
Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the  
Delegation  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente du  
développement durable, du financement et  
du commerce, Chef de la délégation*  
LORENTZEN, Kristian Pihl (Mr./M.)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee  
Social Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement danois (SPD)*  
*Président de la Commission des affaires culturelles*  
*Commission des affaires sociales*

CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)

Second Deputy Speaker of the Danish Parliament  
Transport Committee  
Fiscal Affairs Committee  
*Deuxième Vice-Président du Parlement danois (PL)*  
*Commission des transports*  
*Commission des affaires fiscales*  
Member of the Danish Parliament  
Vice Chairman of the Transport Committee  
Fiscal Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement danois (DPP)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission des transports*  
*Commission des affaires fiscales*

BRAMSEN, Trine (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Legal Affairs Committee  
Social Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement danois (SPD)*  
*Commission des affaires juridiques*  
*Commission des affaires sociales*

DUE, Karina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Social Affairs Committee  
Committee on the Danish Council of Ethics  
*Membre du Parlement danois (DPP)*  
*Commission des affaires sociales*  
*Commission du Conseil danois d'éthique*  
Member of the Danish Parliament  
Foreign Policy Committee  
Cultural Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement danois (A)*  
*Commission de la politique extérieure*  
*Commission des affaires culturelles*

NORDQVIST, Rasmus (Mr./M.)  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
*Comité sur les questions relatives au  
Moyen-Orient*

GAARDSTED, Karin (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Danish Parliament  
Vice Chairman of the Climate, Energy and Building  
Committee  
Business, Growth and Export Committee  
*Membre du Parlement danois (SPD)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission de l'énergie et de la  
construction*  
*Commission des affaires, de la croissance et des  
exportations*

VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the Delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*

LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.)

Assistant Secretary to the Delegation

*Secrétaire assistant de la délégation*

Consultant, Danish Parliament

*Consultante, Parlement danois*

Higher Executive Officer, Danish Parliament

*Haut fonctionnaire, Parlement danois*

(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral)

(DPP: Danish People's Party / Parti populaire danois)

(A: Alternative)

**EGYPT – EGYPTE**

ABD EL AAL, Aly (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the House of Representatives

*Président de la Chambre des représentants*

ELORABI, Mohamed Abdelhay (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

ELMESELHY, Aly Elsayed (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

ELGENDY, Mostafa Abdelaziz (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

LASHEEN, Abdalla Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

AZER ABDELMALAK, Margret (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

ELWANY, Rania Amr (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

AMER, Gehad Galal (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

BADAWY, Ahmed Ragab (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

ELKHOULY, Tarek Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

ELDIN, Ahmed Saad (Mr./M.)

Secretary General of the House of Representatives

*Secrétaire général de la Chambre des représentants*

ELSHEIKH, Yousry (Mr./M.),

Director, Speaker's Office

*Directeur, Bureau du Président*

ABDELWAHAB, Ashraf (Mr./M.),

Director, Protocol Department

*Directeur du Département du protocole*

ELDIN, Yassin Nasr (Mr./M.),

Head of Protocol

*Chef du protocole*

MORGAN, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

OMAR, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

NASR, Ragay (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*

MAZROA, Saad (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

FRERE, Mohamed (Mr./M.)  
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

### EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

ELA NTUGU NSA, Atannasio (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate, First Spokesman of the Office of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat, Premier Porte-parole du Bureau du Sénat</i>
OBONO EDJANG, Silvia Paloma (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ONDO NZE MADJA, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
MANGUE ESIMI, Juliana (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
NKA OBIANG MAYE, Victorino (Mr./M.) Secretary, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
ESONO EKUA, Bienvenido (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés</i>

### ESTONIA - ESTONIE

KÜTT, Helmen (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Estonian Parliament Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (SPD) Commission des affaires sociales</i>
KIVIMÄGI, Toomas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament Chairman of the Economic Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (ERP) Président de la Commission des affaires économiques</i>
KOKK, Aivar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Estonian Parliament Chairman of the Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (IRL) Président de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
TUUS-LAUL, Marika (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the The Estonian Parliament Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement estonien (ECeP) Commission des affaires sociales</i>
ALAJÕE, Maria (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale</i>
OJAVEER, Liisa (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Head of the Foreign Relations Department <i>Chef adjoint du Département des relations étrangères</i>

(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(ERP: Reform Party / Parti de la réforme)

(IRL: Pro Patria and Res Publica Union / Union Pro Patria et Res publica)

(ECeP: Estonian Centre Party / Parti estonien du centre)

### ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE

ABATE RETA, Yalew (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the Federation <i>Président de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
AYENEW, Worku (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
BAHETA, Gebregziabher (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>

DERSSA, Shambel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
HUSSEN, Shukri (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
ZEGEYE, Asmelash (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
WOLDESEMEYAT, Ayelech (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</i>
GONDA, Hailu (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
DERA, Debebe (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, House of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre de la Fédération</i>
GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
TAFESSE, Aschalew (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
GESESSE, Amsalework (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>

(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

#### FIJI - FIDJI

KUMAR, Jilila (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense</i>
MAHARAJ, Alvick (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Justice, Law and Human Rights Standing Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i> <i>Commission permanente de la justice, des lois et des droits de l'homme</i>
VADEI, Anare (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Social Affairs Standing Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Soldelpa)</i> <i>Commission permanente des affaires sociales</i>
DITOKA, Joeli (Mr./M.)	Director, Legislative Affairs <i>Directeur des affaires législatives</i>
NAMOSIMALUA, Veniana (Mrs./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale</i>

(FF: FijiFirst / Les Fidji d'abord)

(Soldelpa: Social Democratic Liberal Party / Parti libéral social-démocrate)

#### FINLAND - FINLANDE

MATTILA, Pirkko (Mrs./Mme) Vice President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Grand Committee Chair of the Administration Committee Agriculture and Forestry Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (PS)</i> <i>Grand Comité</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de l'administration</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture et des forêts</i>
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LINTILÄ, Mika (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Finance Committee  
Subcommittee for Administration and Security  
Chair of the Tax Subcommittee  
*Membre du Parlement (KESK)*  
*Commission des finances*  
*Sous-Commission de l'administration et de la sécurité*  
*Président, Sous-Commission fiscale*

FILATOV, Tarja (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Chair of the Employment and Equality Committee  
Environment Committee  
Forum for International Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (SDP)*  
*Présidente, Commission de l'emploi et de l'égalité*  
*Commission de l'environnement*  
*Forum des affaires internationales*

VIROLAINEN, Anne-Mari (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Chair of the Grand Committee  
Constitutional Law Committee  
Forum for International Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (KOK)*  
*Présidente, Grand Comité*  
*Commission du droit constitutionnel*  
*Forum des affaires internationales*

YANAR, Ozan (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Finance Committee  
Subcommittee for Employment and the Economy  
Subcommittee for Municipal and Health Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (Vihr)*  
*Commission des finances*  
*Sous-Commission de l'emploi et de l'économie*  
*Sous-Commission des affaires municipales et de la santé*

PAAVOLA, Maija-Leena (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

NOLVI, Katja (Ms./Mme)

Assistant to the Group

*Assistante du Groupe*

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire générale*

Secretary, International Affairs

*Secrétaire, Département des affaires internationales*

Assistant, International Affairs

*Assistante, Département des affaires internationales*

(PS: The Finns Party / Parti des Finlandais)

(KESK: Center Party / Parti du Centre)

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(KOK: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)

(Vihr: Green Party / Les Verts)

**FRANCE**

DUMONT, Laurence (Mrs./Mme)

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
Law Committee  
*Première Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)*  
*Commission des lois*

ANDRÉ, Michèle (Mrs./Mme)

Co-ordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians,

Leader of the Delegation

*Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires,**Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate  
Chair of the Finance Committee  
*Membre du Sénat (PS)*  
*Présidente de la Commission des finances*

DURRIEU, Josette (Mrs./Mme)  
Vice-President of the Bureau of the Standing  
Committee on Peace and International Security  
*Vice-Présidente du Bureau de la Commission  
de la paix et de la sécurité internationale*  
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (Mr./M.)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*

GUITTET, Chantal (Mrs./Mme)  
Substitute Member of the Committee on  
Middle East Questions  
*Membre suppléant du Comité sur les  
questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*  
HILLMEYER, Francis (Mr./M.)

MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr./M.)

EIFERMANN, Didier (Mr./M.)  
Executive Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe*  
FAUCONNIER, Inès (Mrs./Mme)  
Secretary of the ASGP  
*Secrétaire de l'ASGP*  
MEFFRE, Françoise (Mrs./Mme)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

VANCE, Loïc (Mr./M.)  
Executive Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe*  
VELASCO, Karine (Mrs./Mme)  
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP  
*Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP*

DE LANGRE, Edouard (Mr./M.)

COHET, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent*

PETIGNY, Jean-Baptiste (Mr./M.)  
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

KASONGO, Charles (Mr./M.)  
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

Member of the Senate  
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
*Membre du Sénat (PS)*  
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires  
étrangères*  
Member of the Senate  
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed  
Forces  
*Membre du Sénat (LR)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et  
des forces armées*

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PS)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*

Member of the National Assembly  
Defence Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDI)*  
*Commission de la défense*

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LR)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*  
Adviser, National Assembly  
*Conseiller, Assemblée nationale*

Administrator, National Assembly  
*Administrateur, Assemblée nationale*

Director, International Affairs and Defense Service,  
National Assembly  
*Directrice du service des affaires internationales et de  
défense, Assemblée nationale*  
Adviser, Senate  
*Conseiller, Sénat*

Adviser, National Assembly  
*Conseillère, Assemblée nationale*

Staff / *Secrétariat*

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti Socialiste)

(LR: The Republicans / Les Républicains)

(UDI: Union of Democrats and Independents / Union des Démocrates et Indépendants)

**GABON**

NGARI, Idriss (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Law Committee Planning Committee Finance Committee <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i> <i>Commission de la planification</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
ONDO METHOGO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate Law Committee Planning Committee <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i> <i>Commission de la planification</i>
MOULENGUI MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee Finance Committee <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
M'BA MINKO, Jean Eddy (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Finance Committee Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des finances</i> <i>Commission des lois</i>
MBOUMI, Michel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Finance Committee Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des finances</i> <i>Commission des lois</i>
NZENGUE MAYILA, Philippe (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MBADINGA MOMBO, Ferdinand (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Law Committee, Planning Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des lois, Commission de la planification</i>
RISSONGA, Arsène (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
SOUOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
ROSSATANGA, Lygie (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>

(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti Démocratique Gabonais)

**GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE**

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the German Bundestag <i>Président, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i>
ROTH, Claudia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development <i>Vice-Présidente, Bundestag allemand (Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen)</i> <i>Sous-commission de la culture et de l'éducation à l'étranger</i> <i>Commission de la coopération économique et du développement</i>
FABRITIUS, Bernd (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the German Bundestag Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Foreign Affairs Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Président, Sous-Commission de la culture et de l'éducation à l'étranger</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'aide humanitaire</i>
FISCHER, Axel E. (Mr./M.)	Member of the German Bundestag Budget Committee Chairperson of the German Delegation at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i> <i>Chef de la délégation allemande à l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe</i>
FREITAG, Dagmar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the German Bundestag Chairperson of the Sports Committee Committee on Foreign Affairs NATO Parliamentary Assembly <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (SPD)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des sports</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN</i>
RADWAN, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the German Bundestag Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organisations and Globalisation Finance Committee Parliamentary Assembly Union for the Mediterranean <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Sous-commission des Nations Unies, des organisations internationales et de la mondialisation</i> <i>Commission des finances</i> <i>Assemblée parlementaire de l'Union pour la Méditerranée</i>
SÜTTERLIN-WAACK, Sabine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the German Bundestag Committee on Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection Committee of Inquiry on Cum/ex Trades <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i> <i>Commission des affaires légales et de la protection des consommateurs</i> <i>Commission d'enquête sur les opérations cum/ex</i>

RISSE, Horst (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, German Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général, Bundestag allemand</i>
SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Bundestag allemand</i>
KLEEMANN, Georg (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Bundesrat <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Conseil fédéral</i>
LEUENBERGER, Saskia (Ms./Mme)	Head of Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
MERATI-KASHANI, Jasmin (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms./Mme) Assistant to the Delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	International Parliamentary Assemblies Division, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Ms./Mme) Assistant to the Delegation <i>Assistante de la délégation</i>	Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag <i>Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand</i>
MÜLLER, Lorenz (Mr./M.)	Head of the Office of the Speaker, German Bundestag <i>Chef du Bureau du Président, Bundestag allemand</i>
FINKE, Bernd (Mr./M.) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	
AUST, Isolde (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
ZOLL, Christian (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
PALTZER, Ursula (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
DIETRICH, Johannes (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)	
(Bündnis 90/ Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)	
(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)	

**GHANA**

ADJAHO, Edward Doe (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee <i>Président du Parlement (NDC) Président de la Commission du règlement</i>
BAGBIN, Alban Sumana Kingsford (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Majority Leader Chairman of the Business Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NDC), Chef de la majorité Président du Comité directeur</i>
BOFORO, Mary Salifu (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Deputy Majority Leader Business Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NDC), Chef adjoint de la majorité Comité directeur</i>
KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament, Minority Leader Business Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NPP), Chef de la minorité Comité directeur</i>

OSEI-ASARE, Abena (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NPP)</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i>
BREFO-BOATENG, Evelyn (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Principal Assistant Clerk <i>Greffière principale adjointe</i>
GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Deputy Clerk of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Parlement</i>
TEYE BOTCHWAY, Linda (Ms./Mme)	Speaker's Secretary <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
WOYRAM SETROGLO, Simon (Mr./M.)	Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Président</i>

(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)

**GUINEA - GUINEE**

CAMARA, Fatoumata Boh (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)</i>
SYLLA, El Hadj Dembo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UFDG)</i>
SAGNO, Jean Edouard (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief of staff, National Assembly <i>Directeur de Cabinet, Assemblée nationale</i>

(RPG: Rally of the Guinean People - Rainbow / Rassemblement du Peuple de Guinée - Arc en ciel)

(UFDG: Union of Democratic Forces of Guinea / Union des Forces Démocratiques de Guinée)

**GUINEA-BISSAU - GUINEE-BISSAU**

CORREIA, Antonio Inacio (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
CASSAMÁ, Almame (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, Tourism and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture, de la pêche, du tourisme et</i> <i>de l'environnement</i>
DOS SANTOS, Nicolau (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly Diplomatic Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)</i> <i>Commission diplomatique</i>
INDEQUI, Matilde (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly Women's Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire</i> <i>Commission de la femme</i>
CASSAMÁ, Salimata (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, People's National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
SOARES, Thiago (Mr./M.)	Adviser, People's National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale populaire</i>

(PAIGC: African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et du Cap-Vert)

(PRS: Party for Social Renovation / Parti de la rénovation sociale)

**HAITI**

RICHE, Andris (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (OPL)*

BENOIT, Stevenson (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (OPL)*

(OPL: Organisation Peuple en Lutte)

**HUNGARY - HONGRIE**

BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme)  
First Vice-President of the Group  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Première Vice-Présidente du Groupe*  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Committee on Sustainable Development  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*  
*Commission du développement durable*

JÓZSA, István (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on European Affairs  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP)*  
*Commission des affaires européennes*

GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Jobbik)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères*

SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Vice-Chairman of the Budget Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP)*  
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission du budget*

ÁDÁM SOMFAI, Katalin (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations  
*Chef du Bureau de l'UIP, Direction des relations étrangères*

(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)

(MSZP: Hungarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste hongrois)

(Jobbik: Movement for a Better Hungary / Mouvement pour une meilleure Hongrie)

(LMP: Politics can be different / Faire de la politique autrement)

**ICELAND - ISLANDE**

RIKHARDSDOTTIR, Ragnheidur (Ms./Mme)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
*Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Member of Parliament  
Welfare Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (IP)*  
*Commission des affaires sociales*

DADASON, Asmundur (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Budget Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (PP)*  
*Commission du budget*

JONSDOTTIR, Birgitta (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Deputy Chairman of the Constitutional and Supervisory Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (P)*  
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission constitutionnelle de surveillance*

BERNODUSSON, Helgi (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*

BANG, Arna (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Adviser, International Relations  
*Conseillère, Relations internationales*

(IP: Independence Party / Parti de l'indépendance)

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)

(P: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)

**INDIA – INDE**

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Mrs./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
KHANNA, Avinash Rai (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (BJP)</i>
SOLANKI, Kirit Premjibhai (Mr./M.) IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
PUNIA, P.L. (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (INC)</i>
DESAI, Anil Yeshwant (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (SS)</i>
SINGH, Nagendra (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
SINGH, Raj Kumar (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
KAMBHAMPATI, Hari Babu (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
BALA, Anju (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
MARAGATHAM, K. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (AIADMK)</i>
MISHRA, Anoop (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of the People <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre du peuple</i>
SHERIFF, Shumsher K. (Mr./M.) Executive Member of the ASGP <i>Membre exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of States <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des Etats</i>
TATED, Sunil (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Leader of the Delegation <i>Conseiller du Chef de la délégation</i>	Principal Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire principal de la Présidente, Chambre du peuple</i>
JOHN, Cyril (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Joint Secretary, House of the People <i>Co-Secrétaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
JASON, S. (Mr./M.)	Director, Council of States <i>Directeur, Conseil des Etats</i>
RAMANA, L. V. (Mr./M.)	Additional Director, House of the People <i>Directeur additionnel, Chambre du peuple</i>
KASHYAP, Harish (Mr./M.) Additional Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulier additionnel de la Présidente</i>	
KUMAR, Praveen (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Council of States <i>Directeur adjoint, Conseil des Etats</i>
ROY, Rashmi (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer, House of the People <i>Chargée du protocole, Chambre du peuple</i>
MISHRA, Vijay (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
BIST, Umesh (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>

SALEEM, Mohd. (Mr./M.)

Liaison Officer, House of the People  
*Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple*(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)  
(INC: Indian National Congress / Parti du Congrès national indien)  
(SS: Shivsena)  
AIADMK: All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam)**INDONESIA - INDONESIE**

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
*Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants*  
(Gerindra)

HONORIS, Charles (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)*  
*Commission de la Coopération interparlementaire*

FIKARNO, Dave Akbarshah (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)*  
*Commission de la coopération interparlementaire*

MASRIFAH, Siti (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKB)*  
*Commission de la coopération interparlementaire*

MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr./M.)

Committee on Middle East Questions  
*Comité sur les questions relatives au*  
*Moyen-Orient*Member of the House of Representatives  
Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inte-Parliamentary  
Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération*  
*interparlementaire*

TAMLIHA, Syaifullah (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Vice Chairman of the Committee for Inte-Parliamentary  
Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PPP)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission de la coopération*  
*interparlementaire*

SYAFRUDIN, Muhammad (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAN)*  
*Commission de la coopération interparlementaire*

SUDIN (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*  
*Commission de la coopération interparlementaire*

SWASANANI, Winantuningtyastiti (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General, House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire générale, Chambre des Représentants*

ANGGORO, Heriyono Adi (Mr./M.)

Adviser to the Delegation  
*Conseiller de la délégation*Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants*

ANDIKA, Muhammad Tri (Mr./M.)

Adviser to Leader of the Delegation  
*Conseiller du Chef de la délégation*Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants*

NADHILA, Avina (Ms./Mme)

Adviser to the Delegation  
*Conseillère de la délégation*Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants*

RETNOASTUTI, Endah Td (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*Secretary, House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants*

ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary to the ASGP delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP*  
SARTOMO, Sartomo (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants*  
Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants*

(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie)  
(PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)  
(Golkar: Party of Functional Groups / Parti des groupes fonctionnels)  
(PKB: National Awakening Party / Parti du réveil national)  
(PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité)  
(PPP: United Development Party / Parti du développement uni)  
(PAN: National Mandate Party / Parti du mandat national)

### IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

HOSSEINI SADR, Moayed (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and  
International Security, Secretary General of the Group,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix  
et de la sécurité internationale, Secrétaire général du  
Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
Standing Committee for Industries and Mines  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran  
Commission permanente des industries et des mines*

JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
Standing Committee for National Security and Foreign  
Policy  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran  
Commission permanente de la sécurité nationale et de  
la politique extérieure*

BET KOLYA, Younaten (Mr./M.)

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran*

JAHANGIRZADEH, Javad (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires  
des Nations Unies*

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
Standing Committee for National Security and Foreign  
Policy  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran  
Commission permanente de la sécurité nationale et de  
la politique extérieure*

SALIMI, Alireza (Mr./M.)

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran*

HOSSEINI, S. Hadi (Mr./M.)

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran*

EFTEKHARI, Laleh (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran  
Standing Committee for Cultural Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran  
Commission permanente des affaires culturelles*

SHEIKHOLESLAM, Hossein (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Adviser, Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran*

GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr./M.)  
Administrative Secretary  
*Secrétaire administratif*

Adviser, Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran*

GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Islamic Parliament of Iran  
*Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran*

SHAKERIAN (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

KHOM, Ghadir (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

AMIN NEJAD, Mohamad (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

HOSSEINI, Mohsen (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

**ISRAEL**

SHAI, Nachman (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of Parliament  
Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee  
Committee on the Status of Women and Gender  
Equality  
Special Committee for Discussion on the Public  
Broadcast Bill 2015  
*Membre du Parlement (Z)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense*  
*Commission de la condition de la femme et de l'égalité*  
*des sexes*  
*Commission spéciale de consultation sur le projet de loi*  
*sur la radio-télévision publique 2015*

HASKEL, Sharren (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse  
Science and Technology Committee  
Special Committee for Public Petitions  
*Membre du Parlement (L)*  
*Commission spéciale sur la toxicomanie et l'alcoolisme*  
*Commission de la science et de la technologie*  
*Commission spéciale des pétitions publiques*  
Director General, Parliament  
*Directeur général, Parlement*  
Sustainability Coordinator, Parliament  
*Coordonnateur de la durabilité, Parlement*

PLOT, Ronen (Mr./M.)

CHAYEN, Samuel (Mr./M.)

FADIDA, Meir (Mr./M.)  
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*  
LAHAV, Refael (Mr./M.)  
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*  
NAIM, Tzachi (Mr./M.)  
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*  
KEDAR, Gershon (Mr./M.)  
Ambassador / Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent*  
(Z: Zionist Camp / Union sioniste)  
(L: Likud)

**ITALY - ITALIE**

AMORUSO, Francesco (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Sénat (ALPA)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSI)*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*  
Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies  
*Chargée du protocole, Chambre des Députés*

LOCATELLI, Pia Elda (Mrs./Mme)  
IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH  
*Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé*  
*de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant*

RADONI, Susanna (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary of the Group and to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*

CACCESE, Erminia (Ms./Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*

SCAMMACCA, Filippo (Mr./M.)  
Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*

(ALPA: Alleanza Liberalpopolare.Autonomie)  
(PSI: Italian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste italien)

Chamber of Deputies  
*Chambre des Députés*

**JAPAN - JAPON**

SUZUKI, Shunichi (Mr./M.) Member of Executive Committee Leader of the Delegation <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)</i>
KOGA, Yuichiro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (LDP)</i>
KAMIKAWA, Yoko (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (LDP)</i>
YUNOKI, Michiyoshi (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DPJ)</i>
YAMAMOTO, Taro (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PLPTYF)</i>
SHIRAFUJI, Tomoki (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, House of Representatives <i>Directeur, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
TATSUMI, Kenji (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
USUDA, Hitomi (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KURATA, Yasuo (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, House of Councillors <i>Directeur, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
OGAWA, Akiko (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
TAKEUCHI, Kenta (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
KOINUMA, Kiyoshi (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)  
(DPJ: Democratic Party of Japan / Parti démocrate japonais)  
(PLPTYF: People's Life Party & Taro Yamamoto and Friends / Parti de la vie des citoyens & Taro Yamamoto et compagnie)

**JORDAN - JORDANIE**

TARAWNEH, Atef (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
HADDADIN, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
JALAMDEH, Adeeb (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
ALBAKKAR, Khaled (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALBARAISEH, Moh'd (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALRIYATI, Tamam (Mrs./Mme) Forum of Young Parliamentarians <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

OWAIS, Samer (Mr./M.) President of the Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Président du Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALGARAGERE, Amneh (Mrs./Mme) Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-GHRIR, Hamad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
AL-ADWAN, Firas (Mr./M.)	General Director, Speaker's Office, House of Representatives <i>Directeur général, Bureau du Président, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALWAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Director, Presidency Affairs, House of Representatives <i>Directeur, Affaires présidentielles, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALMASHAKBEEH, Adnan (Mr./M.)	Director, International Affairs, Senate <i>Directeur, Affaires internationales, Sénat</i>
AL-MAJALI, Ayman (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol, House of Representatives <i>Chef du protocole, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABU ELEZZ, Khaled (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
ALATTI, Rodina (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HUNAITI, Attallah (Mr./M.)	Media Advisor to the Speaker, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller médias du Président, Chambre des Représentants</i>

**KENYA**

ETHURO, David Ekwee (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Member of the Executive Committee, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat</i>
KILONZO JUNIOR, Mutula (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Finance, Commerce and Budget Committee Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee Information and Communication Committee <i>Membre du Sénat Commission des finances, du commerce et du budget Commission des affaires juridiques et des droits de l'homme Commission de l'information et de la communication</i>
NABWALA MUKIITE, Catherine (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Senate Finance Committee Health Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (ODM) Commission des finances Commission de la santé</i>
AMESO AMOLO, Rachel (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Energy, Information and Communication Committee on Delegated Legislation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ODM) Commission de l'énergie, de l'information et de la communication Commission de la législation déléguée</i>

KARIUKI, Steven (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Education, Research Science and Technology <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ODM)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la recherche scientifique et de la technologie</i>
NYAGA MUCHIRI, John (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Public Investment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (TNA)</i> <i>Commission des investissements publics</i>
PAULATA KORERE, Sarah (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Lands Committee on Regional Integration <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (URP)</i> <i>Commission des terres</i> <i>Commission de l'intégration régionale</i>
PKOSING LOSIAKOU, David (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	Member of the National Assembly Defence and Foreign Relations Committee Committee on Parliamentary Library and Broadcasting <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (URP)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et des relations étrangères</i> <i>Commission de la bibliothèque parlementaire et de la radiodiffusion</i>
LESUUDA, Naisula (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
M. NYEGENYE, Jeremiah (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
ALI MOHAMED, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Director <i>Directeur</i>
CHANIA, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Senior Clerk Assistant, Senate <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Sénat</i>
LEMUNA, Moses (Mr./M.)	Clerk Assistant, National Assembly <i>Greffier adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
MATHOOKO, Bonnie (Mr./M.)	Chief Research Officer, Senate <i>Chargé principal de la recherche, Sénat</i>
WALALA, Ronald (Mr./M.)	Legal Counsel, National Assembly <i>Conseiller légal, Assemblée nationale</i>
LIMO, Lucianne (Ms./Mme)	Media Relations Officer, Senate <i>Chargée des relations avec les médias, Sénat</i>
EDUNG, Edward (Mr./M.) Personal Assistant <i>Assistant particulier</i>	
MOGERE, Zakayo (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>

(ODM: Orange Democratic Movement / Mouvement démocratique orange)

(TNA: The National Alliance / Alliance nationale)

(URP: United Republican Party / Parti républicain uni)

#### KUWAIT - KOWEIT

ALGHANIM, Marzouq (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ABDULLAH, Khalil (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALHAJRI, Madhi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALHAMDAN, Homoud (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

ALROWAIE, Oudah (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALNUSF, Rakan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALSHAYA, Faisal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALKANDARI, Allam (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Head of Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
JOMAH, Bader (Mr./M.)	Head of Department, National Assembly <i>Chef de département, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALDOWAISAN, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Manager, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr./M.) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Manager, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMOTAWWA, Amal (Mr./M.)	Manager, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
FARDAN, Amer (Mr./M.)	Manager, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALSABTI, Abdulhakim (Mr./M.)	Manager, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMONEEFI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Staff, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr./M.)	Staff, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr./M.)	Staff, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Staff, National Assembly <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée nationale</i>

**LATVIA - LETTONIE**

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Legal Affairs Committee Parliamentary Inquiry Committee <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (ZZS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i> <i>Commission d'enquête</i>
SUDRABA, Inguna (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee Public Expenditure and Audit Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (NsL)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances (taxation)</i> <i>Commission des dépenses publiques et d'évaluation</i>
SICS, Martins (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Social and Employment Matters Committee Public Expenditure and Audit Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (LRA)</i> <i>Commission des questions sociales et de l'emploi</i> <i>Commission des dépenses publiques et d'évaluation</i>
PAURA, Sandra (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau, Parliament <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires, Parlement</i>

(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans)

(NsL: For Latvia from the Heart / De tout cœur pour la Lettonie)

(LRA: Latvian Regional Alliance / Alliance des régions lettones)

**LEBANON - LIBAN**

HMAYED, Ayoub (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
RAHMEH, Emile (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

**LESOTHO**

MOTSAMAI, Ntlhoi (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (DC)</i>
MONTSUOE, Lethoba (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)</i>
HOOHLO, Futho (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Senate Chairman of the Sustainable Development Goals Committee Business Committee Committee on Standing Orders and Staff <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (ABC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des objectifs de développement durable</i> <i>Comité directeur</i> <i>Commission du règlement et du personnel</i>
PHEKO, Thabang (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Law and Public Safety Cluster <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LCD)</i> <i>Comité du portefeuille des lois et de la santé publique</i>
FINE LEBOHANG, Maema (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
MPESI, 'Mats'otetsi Suzan (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, Senate <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat</i>
MABELENG, Katileho (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary to the Office of the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire au Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
LESIA, Motseki (Mr./M.)	Personal Secretary to the Vice-President, Senate <i>Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président, Sénat</i>

(DC: Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique)

(LCD: Lesotho Congress for Democracy / Congrès pour la démocratie au Lesotho)

(ABC: All Basotho Convention / Convention des Basotho)

**LIBYA - LIBYE**

MISBAH, Hassan Taher (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants</i>
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**LIECHTENSTEIN**

LANTER-KOLLER, Violanda (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Diet <i>Vice-Présidente, Diète (VU)</i>
BÜCHEL, Helmuth (Mr./M.)	Member of the Diet <i>Membre, Diète (FBP)</i>
WACHTER, Gabriele (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary General, Diet <i>Secrétaire générale, Diète</i>

(VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)

(FBP: Progressive Citizens' Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)

**LITHUANIA - LITUANIE**

GAPSYS, Vytautas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Committee on Legal Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (L)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
KIRKILAS, Gediminas (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs Committee on the Development of Information Society <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (LSDP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission du développement de la société de l'information</i>
BILOTAITE, Agne (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Committee on State Administration and Local Authorities <i>Membre du Parlement (TS-LKD)</i> <i>Commission de l'administration d'Etat et des autorités locales</i>
SUMSKIENE, Laura (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, International Relations Unit, Parliament <i>Conseillère, Département des relations internationales, Parlement</i>

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

(LSDP: Lithuanian Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate de Lituanie)

(TS-LKD: Homeland Union - Lithuanian Christian Democrats / Union de la patrie - Démocrates-chrétiens de Lituanie)

**LUXEMBOURG**

KOX, Henri (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Vice-Président, Chamber of Deputies (Déi Gréng)</i>
BERGER, Eugène (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre, Chamber of Deputies (DP)</i>

(Déi Gréng: Parti les Verts / Green Party)

(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)

**MADAGASCAR**

IJO (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DELPHINE, Florentine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
RAVELOSON, Ludovic Adrien (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs and Decentralization <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de l'intérieur et de la décentralisation</i>
JEAN, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ANDRIANJANAHARY, Fanomezantsoa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BEFOUROUACK, William (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

**MALAWI**

MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr./M.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*  
KACHIKHO, Anna Namathanga (Ms./Mme)

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)*

MHONE, Ralph (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Social and Community Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)*  
*Commission des affaires sociales et communautaires*  
Member of the National Assembly  
Legal Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)*  
*Commission des affaires juridiques*

NJOLOMOLE, Henry Hilary (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Clerk, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale*

KAIRA, Patrick (Mr./M.)

Advisor to the Speaker, National Assembly  
*Conseiller du Président, Assemblée nationale*

MWENYEHILI, Jeffrey (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Chief Clerk Assistant, National Assembly  
*Greffier principal adjoint, Assemblée nationale*

MWAFULIRWA, Bitwell Goodfin (Mr./M.)

Security Officer to the Speaker  
*Agent de sécurité du Président*

MLENGA, Mayamiko (Mr./M.)

Security Officer to the Speaker  
*Agent de sécurité du Président*

(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)

(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

**MALAYSIA - MALAISIE**

WEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
Minister in the Prime Minister's Department  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MCA)*  
*Ministre au Département du premier Ministre*

CHIANG CHIN, Ng (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (MCA)*

CHIN HAN, Koh (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat*

MAHMUD, Siti Mariah (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NTP)*

DEVARAJ, Micheal Jeyakumar (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SPM)*

VYVEGANATHAN, Lavinia (Ms./Mme)

Under-Secretary, International Affairs and Protocol  
Division, House of Representatives  
*Sous-Secrétaire, Division des affaires internationales  
et du protocole, Chambre des Représentants*

TING HAN, Lee (Mr./M.)

Secretary, House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants*

SAMSURI, Zamrizam (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Advisor, House of Representatives  
*Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants*

SARJIT SINGH, Amarjit Singh (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / Association sino-malaisienne)

(NTP: National Trust Party of Malaysia / Parti malaisien de la fiducie nationale)

(SPM: Socialist Party of Malaysia / Parti socialiste malaisien)

**MALDIVES**

MOHAMED, Abdulla Maseeh (Mr./M.) President of the Group <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Speaker of the People's Majlis <i>Président, Majlis du Peuple</i>
SOLIH, Ibrahim Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (MDP)</i>
RASHEED, Asma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's Majlis Social Affairs Committee Petitions Committee <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i> <i>Commission des pétitions</i>
MAUROOF, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (MDA)</i>
RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Majlis Petitions Committee <i>Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)</i> <i>Commission des pétitions</i>
MOHAMED, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, People's Majlis <i>Secrétaire général, Majlis du Peuple</i>
ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Head, Foreign Relations, People's Majlis <i>Chef des relations étrangères, Majlis du Peuple</i>
RIYAZ, Hussain (Mr./M.)	Personal Secretary to the Speaker, People's Majlis <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président, Majlis du Peuple</i>

(MDP: Maldivian Democratic Party / Parti démocratique des Maldives)  
(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)  
(MDA: Maldives Development Alliance / Alliance des Maldives pour le développement)

**MALI**

THIAM, Amadou (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (APM)</i>
DRAME, Coulibaly Maimouna (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Sixth Parliamentary Secretary <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)</i> <i>Sixième Secrétaire parlementaire</i>
SANKARE, Idrissa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Rural Development and Environment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ASMA)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>
CISSE, Amadou (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VRD)</i>
KOUYATE, Ousmane (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)</i>
MAIGA, Abdou Agouzer (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (APM)</i>
MAIGA, Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Second Parliamentary Secretary <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VRD)</i> <i>Deuxième Secrétaire parlementaire</i>

TIMBINE, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)</i>
SIDIBE, Modibo (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire Général, Assemblée Nationale</i>
(APM: Alliance for Mali / Alliance pour le Mali) (RPM: Rally for Mali / Rassemblement pour le Mali) (ASMA: Alliance for Solidarity in Mali / Alliance pour la solidarité au Mali) (VRD: Republican and Democratic Vigilance / Vigilance républicaine et démocratique)	

**MALTA - MALTE**

FARRUGIA, Godfrey (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives House Business Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (S&amp;D)</i> <i>Commission des questions intérieures</i>
GONZI, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (EPP)</i>
VELLA, Andre (Mr./M.)	Research Analyst, House of Representatives <i>Analyste de recherche, Chambre des Représentants</i>
(S&D: Labour Party / Parti travailliste) (EPP: Nationalist Party / Parti nationaliste)	

**MAURITANIA – MAURITANIE**

TALEBNA, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
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**MAURITIUS – MAURICE**

DUVAL, Adrien Charles (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
RUTNAH, Satyaprakas-Hsing (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chief Whip <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Chef de file adjoint</i>
BARBIER, Jean-Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

**MEXICO - MEXIQUE**

CUEVAS, Gabriela (Mrs./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL Leader of the Delegation <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the International Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PAN)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires internationales</i>
GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, North America Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PRI)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures,</i> <i>Amérique du Nord</i>
ORTIZ, Graciela (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires</i> <i>des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Legislative Studies Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PRI)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des études législatives</i>
POZOS, Raul (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Administration Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PRI)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'administration</i>

ROJAS, Laura (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, International Organizations Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PAN)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires extérieures, Organisations internationales</i>
TORRES, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Transport <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)</i> <i>Commission des transports</i>
VALERA, Diego (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Social Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PVEM)</i> <i>Commission du développement social</i>
BÁRCENA VARGAS, Marisol (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Governance Committee on External Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)</i> <i>Commission de la gouvernance</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>

(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)

(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

(PVEM: Green Party of Mexico / Parti vert du Mexique)

**MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)**

ALIK, Alik L. (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Congress Vice-Chair, Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee Vice-Chair, Resources and Development Committee Transportation and Communications Committee Health and Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Congrès</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des opérations judiciaires et gouvernementales</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des ressources et du développement</i> <i>Commission des transports et des communications</i> <i>Commission de la santé et des affaires sociales</i>
BONSIANO, Nethon F. (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress Chair, Health and Social Affairs Committee Ways and Means Committee Education Committee External Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Congrès</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la santé et des affaires sociales / Commission des voies et moyens</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation</i> <i>Commission des affaires extérieures</i>
ROMLOW, U. Robson (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee, Resources and Development Committee Vice-Chair, External Affairs Committee Vice-Chair, Transportation and Communications Committee <i>Membre, Congrès / Commission des opérations judiciaires gouvernementales, Commission des ressources et du développement, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires extérieures, Vice-Président de la Commission des transports et des communications</i>

ALLEN, Catherine (Ms./Mme)  
Advisor to the Group  
*Conseillère du Groupe*

Staff Attorney, Congress  
*Avocate de commission, Congrès*

**MONACO**

FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Council  
*Membre du Conseil national*

AMORATTI-BLANC, Nathalie (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Council  
*Membre du Conseil national*

**MOROCCO - MAROC**

BENCHAMACH, Hakim (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the House of Councillors  
*Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)*

TAGOUANE, Bouamar (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)*

LAZREK, Nourddine (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des représentants (RNI)*

EL ABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)*

BENMESSAOUD, Rachida (Mrs./Mme)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des représentants (USFP)*

BENMESSAOUD, Mohammed Salem (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)*

CHEIKHI, Nabil (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PJD)*

KOUSKOUS, Hamid (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (MP)*

GHOULAM, Mounia (Ms./Mme)  
Advisor / *Conseillère*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des représentants*

TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers*

EL KHADI, Najib (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants*

Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

General Councillor, Parliamentary Diplomacy, House of Councillors  
*Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers*

SATRAOUY, Said (Mr./M.)

Head, Multilateral Relations, House of Representatives  
*Chef de Service des relations multilatérales, Chambre des représentants*

Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

EL HAIDAOUY, Youssef (Mr./M.)

Head of the IT Department, House of Representatives  
*Chef du Département de l'informatique, Chambre des représentants*

(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)

(PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti de l'Istiqlal)

(RNI: National Rally of Independents / Rassemblement national des indépendants)

(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces / Union socialiste de forces populaires)

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la Justice et du développement)

(MP: Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire)

**MOZAMBIQUE**

MACAMO DLOVO, Veronica (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
KATUPHA, José Mateus (Mr./M.) President of the Group <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Spokesperson of the Permanent Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i> <i>Porte-parole de la Commission permanente</i>
MACUIANE, Saimone Muhambi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Constitution and Legal Affairs, Human Rights Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (RENAMO)</i> <i>Commission des affaires légales et constitutionnelles,</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme</i>
MALEMA, Lucinda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Social Affairs and Gender Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et de l'égalité des sexes</i>
YASSINE, Mohamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République</i>
CORREIA, Armando (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BONIFÁCIO, Cesar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director <i>Directeur</i>
FUMO, Justino (Mr./M.)	Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>
NEVES, Simião (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
CHAUQUE, Fatima (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	
LISSENGA, Lucrecia (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	
MATSHINHE, Alfredo (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	
GUDJAMO, Celso (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	
BANDE, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme) Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>	
(FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique)	
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique)	

**NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE**

KATJAVIVI, Peter H. (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Rules, Orders and Internal Arrangements Committee, Privileges Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement, de la procédure et des modalités internes</i>
MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margaret Natalie (Mrs./Mme) <i>Ex-officio</i> Member of the Executive Committee, President of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre de droit du Comité exécutif,</i> <i>Présidente du Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Speaker of the National Council Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders <i>Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>

KATAMELO, Phillipus Wido (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chairperson of the Urban and Rural Development Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du développement urbain et rural</i>
SIPAPELA, Cletius Sipapela (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Habitat <i>Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente de l'habitat</i>
TOBIAS, Lebbius Tangeni (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>
//GOWASES, Clara (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Human Resources and Community Development Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RP)</i> <i>Commission des ressources humaines et du développement communautaire</i>
SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chairperson of the Economics and Public Administration Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'économie et de l'administration publique</i>
VAN WYK, Jan Johannes (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPM)</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i>
ANTSINO, Johannes H. (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament, National Council <i>Membre du Parlement, Conseil national</i>
MUPURUA, Juliet Undjee (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Council <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Conseil national</i>
THEOFELLUS, Emma (Ms./Mme) Adviser <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the Children's Parliament, National Assembly <i>Membre du Parlement des enfants</i> <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
NDEUYEEKA, Norman (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Children's Parliament, National Assembly <i>Membre du Parlement des enfants</i> <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
ISAAK, Willem H. (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly <i>Greffier parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale</i>
UUYUNI, Norbert Angula (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Clerk, National Council <i>Greffier parlementaire, Conseil national</i>
MTAMBANENGWE, Anethe (Ms./Mme) Special Assistant to the Chairperson <i>Assistante special de la Présidente</i>	Deputy Director, National Council <i>Directrice adjointe, Conseil national</i>
KANGUATJIVI, Nelson (Mr./M.)	National Assembly <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
KAUKUNGUA, Ndahafa S. (Ms./Mme)	Senior Information Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée principale de l'information, Assemblée nationale</i>
TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms./Mme)	Personal Assistant to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Assistante particulière du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
SHILONGO, Shafodino (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national</i>

SHINDUME, Tudiminapo (Mr./M.)

Adviser, National Council  
*Conseiller, Conseil national*

NAMBAHU, Leonard (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative  
*Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent*

NDADI, Elina (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

(RP: Republican Party / Parti républicain)

(UPM: United People's Movement / Mouvement Populaire Unifié)

**NEPAL**

GHARTI, Onasari (Mrs./Mme)

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the Legislature - Parliament

*Présidente de la Législature - Parlement (CPN)*

NEUPANE, Ishowari Devi (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament

*Membre de la Législature - Parlement*

GHARTI, Gokul Prasad (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament

*Membre de la Législature - Parlement*

NEPALI, Sita Kumari (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament

*Membre de la Législature - Parlement*

YADAV, Shivajee (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament

*Membre de la Législature - Parlement*

CHAUDHARY, Yogendra (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislature - Parliament

*Membre de la Législature - Parlement*

BHATTARAI, Manohar Prasad (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

*Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General

*Secrétaire général*

GAUTAM, Bharat Raj (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the Delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Joint Secretary

*Co-Secrétaire*

DARLAMI MAGAR, Bhakta Bhadur (Mr./M.)

Personal Secretary to the Speaker

*Assistant particulier de la Présidente*

(CPN: Unified Communist Party Nepal (Maoist) / Parti communiste népalais (maoïste))

**NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS**

ATSMA, Joop (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate

Infrastructure and Environment Committee

Economic Affairs Committee

Health, Welfare and Sports Committee

*Membre du Sénat (CDA)**Commission des infrastructures et de l'environnement**Commission des affaires économiques**Commission de la santé, des affaires sociales et du sport*

SCHRIJVER, Nico (Mr./M.)

Member of the Executive Committee

*Membre du Comité exécutif*

Member of the Senate

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and

Development Cooperation

European Affairs Committee

Security and Justice Committee

*Membre du Sénat (PvdA)**Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la coopération pour le développement**Commission des affaires européennes**Commission de la sécurité et de la justice*

MULDER, Agnes (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CDA)*

WOLBERT, Agnes (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PvdA)</i>
TAVERNE, Joost (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (VVD)</i>
HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
HEIDA, Harke (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NIEUWENHUIZEN, Bas (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director <i>Directeur</i>

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)

(PvdA: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie)

**NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE**

KING, Annette (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Health Committee, Parliamentary Service Commission <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (L) Commission de la santé, Commission du service parlementaire</i>
BAYLY, Andrew (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee on Finance and Expenditure, Transport and Industrial Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN) Commission des finances et des dépenses, des transports et des relations industrielles</i>
MARTIN, Tracey (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Education and Science Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NZF) Commission de l'éducation et des sciences</i>
TASKER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Parliamentary Relations Officer, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des relations parlementaires Chambre des Représentants</i>

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

(PN: National Party / Parti national)

(NZF: New Zealand First Party / La Nouvelle-Zélande d'abord)

**NIGERIA**

LASUN, Yusuf S. (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i>
GAYA, Kabiru (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chair, Committee on Works <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission des travaux</i>
IBRAHIM, Rafiu (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chair, Committee on Banking and Financial Institutions <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission des institutions bancaires et financières</i>

NAFADA, Bayero Usman (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (APC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires interparlementaires</i>
ADEDOYIN, Funke (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair, Committee on Defence <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la défense</i>
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair, Committee on Petitions <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des pétitions</i>
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr./M.) Forum of Young Parliamentarians <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDP)</i> <i>Commission des relations interparlementaires</i>
IKON, Samuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chair, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des relations interparlementaires</i>
FASEYI, Duro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate, Senate Chair, Committee on Air Force <i>Membre du Sénat, Sénat</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'armée de l'air</i>
AUDU, Rabi (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director, International Relations, National Assembly <i>Directrice, Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
GARBA, Lawal A. (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Global Institutions, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Institutions mondiales, Assemblée nationale</i>
ASHIEKAA, Christopher (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Clerk, National Assembly <i>Assistant spécial du Secrétaire général</i> <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
BUKOYE, Alh. Lasisi (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Finance and Account, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, finance et comptabilité, Assemblée nationale</i>
OBASI, Ijeoma Ngene (Mrs./Mme)	Senior Legislative Officer, IPU Desk, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire légale principale, Assemblée nationale</i>
OKOH, Bernard Uzeme (Mr./M.)	Clerk/Secretary, Senate Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs <i>Secrétaire de la Commission du Sénat des affaires interparlementaires</i>
ASAW, Caroline (Ms./Mme)	Clerk/Secretary, House of Representatives Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations <i>Secrétaire de la Commission de la Chambre des représentants des relations interparlementaires</i>
ABIODUN, Fadeyi (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant, Public Affairs <i>Assistant spécial des affaires publiques</i>
TENIOLA, Lanlehin (Ms./Mme)	Special Assistant, Women and Children Affairs <i>Assistante spéciale des affaires de la femme et de l'enfant</i>
TONIA AMAKA, Ike-Ejeye (Ms./Mme) Press / Presse	

(APC: All Progressives Congress / Congrès progressiste)

(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)

**NORWAY - NORVEGE**

SVENDSEN, Kenneth (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of Parliament  
Sub-Committee on Finance  
*Vice-Président du Parlement (PP)*  
*Sous-Commission des finances*

ELDEGARD, Gunvor (Ms./Mme)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*

Member of Parliament  
Subcommittee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (L)*  
*Sous-Commission du scrutin et des affaires constitutionnelles*

HILLE, Sigurd (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Subcommittee on Finance  
*Membre du Parlement (C)*  
*Sous-Commission des finances*

LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Subcommittee on Family and Cultural Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (L)*  
*Sous-Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles*

TRETTEBERGSTUEN, Anette (Ms./Mme)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies*

Member of Parliament  
Subcommittee on Family and Cultural Affairs  
*Membre du Parlement (L)*  
*Sous-Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles*

FRASER, Thomas (Mr./M.)

Senior Adviser, International Relations  
*Conseiller principal, Relations internationales*

STOCK, Lisbeth Merete (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Adviser, International Relations  
*Conseillère, Relations internationales*

(PP: Progress Party / Parti progressiste)  
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)  
(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

**OMAN**

AL MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the Consultative Council  
*Président du Conseil consultatif*

AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the State Council  
*Membre du Conseil de l'Etat*

AL KHAMISI, Nasser (Mr./M.)

Member of the Consultative Council  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif*

AL SADI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of the Consultative Council  
Legal Committee  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif*  
*Commission juridique*

AL HOSNI, Khalil (Mr./M.)

Head, Coordination Section, Consultative Council  
*Chef de la section de coordination, Conseil consultatif*

AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General, Consultative Council  
*Secrétaire général, Conseil consultatif*

AL-OWAISI, Aiman (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Consultative Council  
*Conseiller, Conseil consultatif*

**PAKISTAN**

JAMALDINI, Jehanzeb (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Senate  
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on  
Rules of Procedures and Privileges  
*Membre du Sénat (BNP)*  
*Président de la Commission permanente des règles de procédure et des privilèges*

AYAZ, Sitara (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Climate Change Standing Committee on Defence Production Human Rights Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (ANP)</i> <i>Commission permanente sur le changement climatique</i> <i>Commission permanente de la production d'armements</i> <i>Comité des droits de la personne</i>
JADOON, Azhar Khan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTI)</i>
AHMED, Sheikh Rasheed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AMLN)</i>
KHAN, Babar Nawaz (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
NAVEED, Kanwar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MQM)</i>
SAHI, Ghulam Rasool (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Interior Standing Committee on Defence Production <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i> <i>Commission permanente de l'intérieur</i> <i>Commission permanente de la production d'armements</i>
NAZIR, Sabiha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
SOBIA, Shazia (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP)</i>
KUMAR, Ashok (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
MALIK, Amjed Pervez (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
CHAUDHRY, Waseem Iqbal (Mr./M.)	Director for International Relations, National Assembly <i>Directeur des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALI, Abdul Jabbar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
RAFIK, M. (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
GHERAYA, Assim (Mr./M.)	Committee Secretary <i>Secrétaire de commission</i>
(BNP: Balochistan National Party (Mengal) / Parti national du Baloutchistan (Mengal))	
(ANP: Awami National Party / Parti national Awami)	
(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf / Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf)	
(AMLN: Awami Muslim League Pakistan / Ligue musulmane awami du Pakistan)	
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz))	
(MQM: Muttahida Qaumi Movement / Mouvement Muttahida Quami)	
(PPPP: Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians / Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais)	

**PALESTINE**

AL AHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Palestinian National Council Political Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission des affaires politiques</i>
HAMED, Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (Ind)</i>
QASEM, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien</i>

KHADER, Qais (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Political Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (DF)</i> <i>Commission des affaires politiques</i>
SANDUKA, Zuheir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i>
THABIT, Seham (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
KHRISHI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Palestinian National Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil national palestinien</i>
SULAIMAN, Bashar (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Palestinian National Council <i>Directeur des relations interparlementaires, Conseil national palestinien</i>
(F: Fatah) (Ind: Independent / Indépendant) (DF: Democratic Front / Front démocratique) (PPP: Palestinian Peoples Party / Parti du peuple palestinien)	

**PANAMA**

MILLER, Mario (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i>
WEVER, Franz (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DOMINGUEZ, Jacob (Mr./M.) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	
(CD: Democratic Change / Changement démocratique)	

**POLAND - POLOGNE**

SEWERYNSKI, Michal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PiS)</i>
DOWHAN, Robert (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PO)</i>
KRUK, Elzbieta, (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PiS)</i>
KLOC, Izabela (Mrs./Mme) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre, Sejm (PiS)</i>
POLKOWSKA, Ewa (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire générale du Sénat</i>
CZAPLA, Lech (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Sejm <i>Secrétaire général, Sejm</i>
KARWOWSKA-SOKOLOWSKA, Agata (Ms./Mme)	Director <i>Directrice</i>
GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
RADUCHOWSKA-BROCHWICZ, Anna (Ms./Mme) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadrice / Représentante permanente</i>	
(PiS: Law and Justice / Droit et justice) (PO: Civic Platform / Plate-forme civique)	

**PORTUGAL**

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Committee on Budget, Finance and Administrative Modernisation Committee on Economics, Innovation and Public Works <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (SPD)</i> <i>Commission du budget, des finances et de la modernisation administrative</i> <i>Commission de l'économie, de l'innovation et des travaux publics</i>
LACÃO, Jorge (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees Committee on European Affairs <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, des droits, des libertés et des garanties</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>
MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Vice-President of the Committee on Economics, Innovation and Public Works European Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (SPD)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'économie, de l'innovation et des travaux publics</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>
MARTINS, Hortense (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Committee on Budget, Finance and Administrative Modernisation Committee on Economics, Innovation and Public Works <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)</i> <i>Commission du budget, des finances et de la modernisation administrative</i> <i>Commission de l'économie, de l'innovation et des travaux publics</i>
MATOS ROSA, José (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic President of the Health Committee National Defence Committee Committee on Budget, Finance and Administrative Modernisation <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (SPD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la santé</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i> <i>Commission du budget, des finances et de la modernisation administrative</i>
MORAIS, Teresa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic National Defence Committee Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (SPD)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, des droits, des libertés et des garanties</i>
ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.) ASGP Executive Committee <i>Comité exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée de la République</i>

ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme)  
Adviser to the Delegation  
*Conseillère de la délégation*

Adviser for International Affairs, Assembly of the Republic  
*Conseillère, Affaires internationales, Assemblée de la République*

MARQUES, Eurico (Mr./M.)  
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)  
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

#### QATAR

AL-MEADADI, Rashid (Mr./M.)  
Vice President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
*Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Advisory Council  
Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee  
Cultural, Media Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif  
Commission juridique et législative  
Commission des affaires culturelles et des médias*

AL-NASSR, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)

Member of the Advisory Council  
Internal and External Affairs Committee  
Services and Public Utilities Committee  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif  
Commission des affaires intérieures et extérieures  
Commission des services d'intérêt public*

AL-MAJID, Abdulreda (Mr./M.)

Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Advisory Council  
*Chef de la Section de l'édition et de la traduction, Conseil consultatif*

#### REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHUNG, Ui Hwa (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

CHOI, Bong Hong (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SP)*

YOO, Seung Woo (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

PARK, Heong Joon (Mr./M.)  
Head of ASGP delegation  
*Chef de la délégation de l'ASGP*

Secretary-General, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale*

LEE, Myung Woo (Mr./M.)

Senior Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire principal du Président, Assemblée nationale*

PARK, Hung Shin (Mr./M.)

Spokesman of the National Assembly  
*Porte-parole de l'Assemblée nationale*

JUN, Sang Soo (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the ASGP delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP*

Director General of Planning and Coordination Office, National Assembly  
*Directeur général du Bureau de planification et de coordination, Assemblée nationale*

KIM, Il Kwon (Mr./M.)

Director General of International Affairs and Protocol Bureau, National Assembly  
*Directeur général du Bureau des affaires internationales et du protocole, Assemblée nationale*

SONG, Woong Yeob (Mr./M.)

Ambassadorial Advisor to the Speaker for Foreign Affairs, National Assembly  
*Conseiller diplomatique du Président pour les affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale*

YEO, Sung Jun (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Assembly  
*Directeur général adjoint du Ministère des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale*

HWANG, Seung Ki (Mr./M.)	Director, International Affairs and Protocol Bureau, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Bureau des affaires internationales et du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
HWANG, Jun Yeon (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, International Affairs and Protocol Bureau, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint, Bureau des affaires internationales et du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
HA, Sang Woo (Mr./M.) Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
JEONG, So Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
JO, Byung Je (Mr./M.) Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
WI, Jin Su (Mr./M.)	Program Coordinator, National Assembly <i>Coordinateur de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
HEO, Keum Bok (Mr./M.)	Program Coordinator, National Assembly <i>Coordinateur de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHUNG, Yeon Hwa (Ms./Mme)	Program Coordinator, National Assembly <i>Coordinatrice de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
LEE, Min Ho (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
JEON, Seung Hoon (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
KIM, Jin Won (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
KWON, Yong Kyu (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
KANG, Won Joon (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(SP: Saenuri Party / Parti Saenuri)

#### ROMANIA - ROUMANIE

BORBÉLY, László (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Committee for Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DAHR) Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
BAGNEANU, Ioana (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Expert within the General Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies <i>Experte parlementaire auprès de la Direction générale des affaires étrangères, Chambre des Députés</i>

(DAHR: Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania / Alliance démocratique des Hongrois en Roumanie)

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

UMAKHANOV, Iliyas (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Science, Education and Culture Committee <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
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BORISOV, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Social Politics Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des politiques sociales</i>
GUMEROVA, Lilia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation Deputy Chair of the Science, Education and Culture Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
PETRENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme) Committee to promote respect for IHL, Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH, Comité de coordination des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Social Politics Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission des politiques sociales</i>
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
ROMANOVICH, Alexander (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre, Douma d'Etat</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TKACHENKO, Mikhail (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation, Secretary of the Eurasia Group <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Secrétaire du Groupe Eurasie</i>	Deputy Head of the International Organisations Division, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des organisations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ERMOSHIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Counsellor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller principal, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms./Mme) interpreter, Member of the ASGP <i>Interprète, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant, Council of the Federation <i>Aide de camp, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZHOLOBOVA, Maria (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Counsellor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
FOLOMEeva, Olga (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SCHERBAKOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Conseiller, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>

(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)

(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)

**RWANDA**

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'arc (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat</i>
SEBUHORO, Celestin (Mr./M.) IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and MNCH <i>Groupe consultatif sur le VIH/sida et pour la santé de la mère, du nouveau-né et de l'enfant</i>	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Economic Development and Finance Committee <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission du développement économique et des finances</i>
CYITATIRE, Sosthene (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>

**SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN**

TERENZI, Gian Franco (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)</i>
MICHELOTTI, Augusto (Mr./M.) Vice President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (SU)</i>
CARDELLI, Alessandro (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)</i>

(PDCS: Christian Democrats / Parti chrétien-démocrate)  
(SU: United Left / Gauche Unie)

**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE**

DA GRAÇA DIOGO, Jose (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ADI)</i>
AZEVEDO, Beatriz (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP)</i>
NEVES, Delfim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PCD)</i>
RAMOS, Alda (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ADI)</i>
BOA MORTE, Domingos (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Sécretaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDEIRA MANDINGA, Bilma (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director, Public and International Relations Office, National Assembly <i>Directrice du Cabinet des relations publiques et internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
PINA, Adilson (Mr./M.) Security Officer <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

(ADI: Action démocratique indépendante / Independent Democratic Alliance)  
(MLSTP: Mouvement de libération de Sao Tomé-et-Principe / Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement)  
(PCD: Parti démocratique de convergence / Democratic Convergence Party)

**SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE**

ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHARBI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>

ALAMR, Mohammed (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

ALANGARI, Saad (Mr./M.)  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

ALAJLAN, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.)  
Secretary / *Secrétaire*

ALSAUD, Reem (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary / *Secrétaire*

ALSHUBAILI, Rasha (Ms./Mme)

ALMUBARAK, Khalid (Mr./M.)

ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Secretary General, Consultative Council  
*Secrétaire général, Conseil consultatif*

Director  
*Directeur*

Adviser / *Conseillère*

Adviser / *Conseiller*

## SENEGAL

SQUARE, Djimo (Mr./M.)  
Acting President of the Group, Leader of  
the Delegation  
*Président délégué du Groupe, Chef de  
la délégation*

SECK DIENG, Penda (Ms./Mme)

DIOUF, Aïssatou (Ms./Mme)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de  
la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

THIAM, Fatou (Ms./Mme)

GUEYE, Alioune Abatalib (Mr./M.)  
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
*Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*

CISSE, Baye Niassé (Mr./M.)  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administratif du Groupe*

(BBY: Groupe Benno Bok Yakaar)

(PDS: Senegalese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique sénégalais)

(BGG: Bokk Guis Guis)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Economy, Finance, Planning and  
Economic Cooperation  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Commission de l'économie, des finances, du plan et de  
la coopération économique*

Member of the National Assembly  
First Vice-President of the Committee on Economy,  
Finance, Planning and Economic Cooperation  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Première Vice-Présidente de la Commission de  
l'économie, des finances, du plan et de la coopération  
économique*

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on Development and Land Use Planning  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BBY)  
Commission du développement et de l'aménagement  
du territoire*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDS)*

Member of the National Assembly  
Defence and Security Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BGG)  
Commission de la défense et de la sécurité*

Deputy Secretary-General  
*Secrétaire général adjoint*

## SERBIA – SERBIE

MIJATOVIĆ, Milorad (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of  
Public Spending  
Security Services Control Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SDPS)  
Commission des affaires étrangères  
Commission des finances, du budget d'Etat et du  
contrôle des dépenses publiques  
Commission de surveillance des services de sécurité*

BERIĆ, Nebojša (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Committee on the Diaspora and Serbs in the Region  
Defence and Internal Affairs Committee  
Committee on the Economy, Regional Development,  
Trade, Tourism and Energy  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SNS)*  
*Commission de la diaspora et des Serbes dans la région*  
*Commission de la défense et des affaires intérieures*  
*Commission de l'économie, du développement régional,*  
*du commerce, du tourisme et de l'énergie*  
Advisor, Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly  
*Conseiller, Département des affaires étrangères,*  
*Assemblée nationale*

FILIPOVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*  
ODAVIĆ, Vladimir (Mr./M.)  
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe)

(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe)

**SEYCHELLES**

HERMINIE, Patrick (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
Chair of the Chairpersons Committee  
Chair of the Reform and Modernization Committee  
Chair of the Standing Orders Committee  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale (Parti Lepep)*  
*Président du Comité des Présidents*  
*Président de la Commission des réformes et de la*  
*modernisation*  
*Président de la Commission du règlement*

JEANNEVOLE, Begitta (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Standing Orders Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Parti Lepep)*  
*Commission du règlement*  
Clerk, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale*

COMMETTANT, Shelda (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

ZELIA, Doreen (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Director, National Assembly  
*Directrice, Assemblée nationale*

(Parti Lepep: Seychelles People's Progressive Front / Front progressiste du peuple seychellois)

**SIERRA LEONE**

BAH, Chernor Ramadan Maju (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of Parliament  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
*Vice-Président du Parlement (APC)*  
*Président de la Commission des comptes publics*

SMITH, Rosaline Jariatu (Mrs./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Lands and Environment Committee, Finance and Water  
Resources Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (APC)*  
*Commission des terres et de l'environnement,*  
*Commission des finances et des ressources en eau*

TARAWALLY, Umar Paran (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Youth Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (SLPP)*  
*Commission des affaires de la jeunesse*

MABINTI, Funna (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
Health and Sanitation Committee  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement*  
*Commission de la santé et de l'hygiène*  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*

TUNIS, Sidi (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
Trade and Tourism Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (SLPP)*  
*Commission du commerce et du tourisme*

NGEVAO, Mohamed Momoh (Mr./M.)

Clerk of Committees, Parliament  
*Greffier de commissions, Parlement*Adviser and Secretary  
*Conseiller et Secrétaire*

(APC: All People's Congress Party / Congrès du peuple réuni)

(SLPP: Sierra Leone People's Party / Parti populaire de la Sierra Leone)

**SINGAPORE – SINGAPOUR**

BIN SAPARI, Zainal (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (PAP)*

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

CHENG, Li Hui (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (PAP)*

NG, Kok Kwang Louis (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (PAP)*

KOH, Kiang Chai (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the Delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*

(PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)

**SLOVENIA - SLOVENIE**

RAJIĆ, Branislav (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Policy  
Committee on Culture  
Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PMC)*  
*Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique étrangère*

Leader of the Delegation

*Chef de la délégation**Commission de la culture**Commission de l'éducation, de la science, du sport et de la jeunesse*

BON KLANJŠČEK, Mirjam (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chair of the Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth / Committee on Culture  
Committee on Labour, Family, Social Policy and Disability*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale**Présidente de la Commission de l'éducation, de la science, du sport et de la jeunesse**Commission de la culture**Commission du travail, de la famille, de la politique sociale et de l'invalidité*

POTOČNIK, Andreja (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chair of the Committee on the Economy  
Committee on EU Affairs / Committee on Health  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PMC)**Présidente de la Commission de l'économie**Commission des affaires européennes**Commission de la santé*

PANDEV, Tanja (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Head of International Relations Department,  
National Assembly  
*Chef du Département des relations internationales,  
Assemblée nationale*

(PMC: Party of Modern Centre / Parti du centre moderne)

### SOMALIA - SOMALIE

ABDULLAHI, Ahmed Hussein (Mr./M.)  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of the People  
*Membre de la Chambre du Peuple*

ABDI, Dahir Hassan (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of the People  
*Membre de la Chambre du Peuple*

### SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

MBETE, Baleka (Ms./Mme)  
Leader of the Delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)*

TAU, Raseriti (Mr./M.)

Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces  
*Vice-Président du Conseil national des provinces*

President of the Bureau of the Standing Committee  
on Peace and International Security  
*Président du Bureau de la Commission  
permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale*

BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)*

HLOPHE, Hlengiwe (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (EFF)*

MOKGALAPA, Stevens (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)*

KUBAYI, Mmamoloko Tryphos (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chair of the Portfolio Committee on  
Telecommunications and Postal Services  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)  
Présidente du Comité du portefeuille des  
télécommunications et des services postaux*  
Member of the National Council of Provinces  
*Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)*  
Member of Parliament, National Council of Provinces  
*Membre du Parlement, Conseil national des provinces  
(ANC)*

NCITHA, Zukiswa (Ms./Mme)

NTHEBE, Boingotlo (Mr./M.)

BONGO, Bongani (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

VOS, James (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

MGIDLANA, Gengezi (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

XASO, Masibulele (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

PAULSE, Cheryl-Anne (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group and to the Delegation

*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

KHUZWAYO, June (Ms./Mme)

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

MONNAKGOTLA, Mpho (Ms./Mme)

Secretary / *Secrétaire*

HLATSHWAYO, Zanele (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale*

International Relations  
*Relations internationales*

International Relations  
*Relations internationales*

International Relations  
*Relations internationales*

Political Assistant to the Speaker  
*Assistante politique de la Présidente*

HLONGWANE, Sibongile (Ms./Mme)

Personal Assistant to the Speaker  
*Assistante particulière de la Présidente*

KUBHEKA, T. (Mr./M.)

Special Adviser to the Speaker  
*Conseiller spécial de la Présidente*

MBADLANYANA, Thembanani (Mr./M.)

Personal Assistant to the Secretary General  
*Assistant particulier du Secrétaire général*

MBETE, Luvuyo (Mr./M.)

ASGP Support / *Appui à l'ASGP*

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)

(EFF: Economic Freedom Fighters / Combattants pour la liberté économique)

(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)

**SOUTH SUDAN – SOUDAN DU SUD**

RUNDIAL, Manasseh Magok (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée législative nationale*

ACIEN, Gabriel Guot Guot (Mr./M.)

Member of National Legislative Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée législative nationale*

LORO, Alalla Younis Said (Mr./M.)

Clerk / *Secrétaire général*

APINYI, Modesto Okello Edward (Mr./M.)

Legal Adviser  
*Conseiller juridique*

BIEL, James Chamkuan (Mr./M.)

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité***SPAIN – ESPAGNE**

ARAGÓN, Carme (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PP)*

BURGOS, Tomás (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PP)*

CHACÓN, Carmen (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre, Congrès des Députés (PSOE)*

GARCÍA-TIZÓN, Arturo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre, Congrès des Députés (PP)*

MARTÍNEZ DALMAU, Rubén (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre, Congrès des Députés (P)*

TORRES, José (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre, Congrès des Députés (PSOE)*

CAVERO, Manuel (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General, Senate  
*Secrétaire général, Sénat*

BOYRA, Helena (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary to the Delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*Legal Adviser, Congress of Deputies  
*Conseillère juridique, Congrès des Députés*

GÓMEZ-BERNARDO, Teresa (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary of the Group and to the Delegation

*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

(PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party / Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)

(P: Podemos)

**SRI LANKA**

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of Parliament

*Président du Parlement (UNP)*

MASTHAN, Kader (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i>
FERNANDOPULLE, Sudarshini (Mrs./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i>
SENANAYAKE, Vasantha Naresh (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i>
KODEESWARAN, Kaveendiran (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Select Committee on Ministries 2016 Budget Estimates <i>Membre du Parlement (ITAK)</i> <i>Comité restreint du Budget prévisionnel des ministres pour 2016</i>
DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
RAJAPAKSE ARACHCHIGE DONA, Nayana Geyowanee (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement</i>
SAMARASUNDERA, Nimal (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président</i>
DARSHANA, Nishantha (Mr./M.) Security Officer to the Speaker <i>Agent de sécurité du Président</i>	
(UNP: United National Party / Parti national unifié ) (UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance / Alliance populaire unifiée pour la liberté) (ITAK: Illankai Tamil Arasu Kadchi)	

**SUDAN - SOUDAN**

SULEIMAN, Badria (Mrs./Mme) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-MANSOUR, Al-Fatih Izzeldin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCP)</i>
KARRAR, Salah el Din (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (NCP)</i>
HUSSAIN ADAM, Alamin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chairperson of the Economic Affairs and Investment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NUP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires économiques et des investissements</i>
HASSAN OSMAN, Mathaba Haj (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Dem UP)</i>
HAMMAD AL-ZAHI, Fatma (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCP)</i>
HASSABALLA, Salih Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCP)</i>
ABDALLA KHALAFALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
YAGOUB, Mohammed Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of States <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil des Etats</i>
AL-TAYEB, Ali Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Director of the Executive Office <i>Directeur du Bureau exécutif</i>
FADUL ABDELGADIR, Thana (Mrs./Mme) Executive Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe</i>	
ELSUNI, Ismail Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker's Office Manager <i>Directeur du Bureau de la Vice-Présidente</i>
MAHMOUD, Akaram Hussain (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

ALI, Gafer Mohammed (Mr./M.)  
Security Officer to the Deputy Speaker  
*Agent de sécurité de la Vice-Présidente*

(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)

(NUP: UMMA Party for Reform and Development / Parti OUMMA pour les réformes et le développement)

(Dem UP: Democratic Unionist Party / Parti démocratique unioniste)

#### SURINAME

BOUVA, Melvin (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the  
Delegation

*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie  
et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation*

COTINO, Rossellie (Ms./Mme)

VORSWIJK, Dinotha (Mrs./Mme)

RAMDASS, Agatha (Mrs./Mme)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

(NDP : National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)

(A-Com: A Combination / Coalition A)

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (A-Com)*

Deputy Secretary-General, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire générale adjointe, Assemblée nationale*

#### SWEDEN - SUEDE

DINGIZIAN, Esabelle (Ms./Mme)  
Leader of the Delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme)  
Committee to Promote Respect for IHL  
*Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH*

AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.)  
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs  
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires  
des Nations Unies*

HAMEDNACA, Arhe (Mr./M.)

LINDBERG, Teres (Ms./Mme)

ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.)

MÄNSSON, Ann-Louise (Ms./Mme)  
Senior Adviser / *Conseillère principale*

LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

SONDÉN, Björn (Mr./M.)  
Deputy Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation*

(Mpg: Green Party / Les Verts)

(SAP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)

Deputy Speaker of Parliament  
*Vice-Présidente du Parlement (Mpg)*

Member of Parliament  
Committee on Finance  
*Membre du Parlement (SAP)  
Commission des finances*

Member of Parliament  
Committee on Justice  
*Membre du Parlement (M)  
Commission de la justice*

Member of Parliament  
Committee on Justice  
*Membre du Parlement (SAP)  
Commission de la justice*

Member of Parliament  
Committee on Transport and Communications  
*Membre du Parlement (SAP)*

*Commission des transports et des télécommunications*  
Member of Parliament  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement (SAP)  
Commission des affaires étrangères*

Head of International Department, Parliament  
*Chef du Département international, Parlement*

International Adviser, Parliament  
*Conseillère internationale, Parlement*

International Adviser, Parliament  
*Conseiller international, Parlement*

**SWITZERLAND - SUISSE**

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Mrs./Mme) Vice-president of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (PS/SP)</i>
AMAUDRUZ, Céline (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i>
CASSIS, Ignazio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Chairman of the Committee on Social Security and Public Health <i>Membre du Conseil national (FDP/PLR)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la sécurité sociale et de la santé publique</i>
LOHR, Christian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)</i>
LOMBARDI, Filippo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure</i>
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.) Substitute Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Membre suppléant du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the National Council Chairman of the Committee on Science, Education and Culture <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
SCHWAB, Philippe (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the ASGP / <i>Vice-Président de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Federal Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée fédérale</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations <i>Chef adjoint, Relations internationales</i>
EQUEY, Jérémie (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Secretariat, International Relations <i>Secrétariat, Relations internationales</i>
MATTLI, Arthur (Mr./M.) Ambassador / Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent</i>	
(PS/SP: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre)	
(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)	
(CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	

**THAILAND - THAILANDE**

LIENGBONLERTCHAI, Surachai (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the National Legislative Assembly <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i>
SAMPATSIRI, Bilaibhan (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Deputy Chair of the Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales, des enfants, des jeunes, des femmes, des aînés, des invalides et des défavorisés</i>

SUKSOMJIT, Chatchawal (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee on Laws, Justice Procedure and Police Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Commission des lois, des procédures légales et des affaires de police</i>
WASINONDH, Kitti (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Deputy Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Committee on Political Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Commission des affaires politiques</i>
WONGSONGSARN, Srisakdi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Deputy Chair of the Committee on Religions, Arts, Culture and Tourism <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Vice-Président de la Commission des religions, des arts, de la culture et du tourisme</i>
NIUMPRADIT, Boonerang (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
CHAOWALITTAWIL, Saithip (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Chambre des Représentants</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
ANAMWAT, Chanpen (Mrs./Mme)	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe Chambre des Représentants</i>
PUTORNJAI, La-or (Mrs./Mme)	Deputy Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KUNKLOY, Chollada (Mrs./Mme)	Advisor on Legislative Procedure, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère sur la procédure législative Chambre des Représentants</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
TESTHOMSAP, Sirawasa (Ms./Mme)	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organizations, House of Representatives <i>Directrice du Bureau des Organisations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NOPPAWONG, Monton (Mr./M.)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, House of Representatives <i>Directeur de la Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
THONGSAMRIT, Pилanthana (Ms./Mme)	Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, House of Representatives <i>Chargée principale des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SIRIWONG, Kanjanat (Ms./Mme)	Secretary and Advisor, Senate <i>Secrétaire et conseillère, Sénat</i>
LICKANAJULE, Somsakul (Ms./Mme)	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
Assistant Secretary to the ASGP Delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms./Mme)	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	
WIBOONCHAN, Nisaporn (Ms./Mme)	Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, International Relations Division, Senate <i>Chargée principale des affaires étrangères Division des relations internationales, Sénat</i>

MONJAMLANG, Prajak (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Union Division, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Division de l'Union interparlementaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HOMPIROM, Wittawat (Mr./M.)	Foreign Relations Officer, English Language Division, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des relations étrangères, Division de la langue anglaise, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAIKRACHANG, Chulatas (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Union Organizations, House of Representatives <i>Chargé des affaires étrangères, Bureau des organisations de l'Union interparlementaire Chambre des Représentants</i>
PONSANA, Nuthapoom (Mr./M.)	Secretay and Advisor, Senate <i>Secrétaire et conseiller, Sénat</i>
SIKKHABANDIT, Phinissorn (Mrs./Mme) Assistant Secretary to the ASGP Delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>

**TIMOR-LESTE**

DIAS XIMENES, David Mandati (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Parliament Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN) Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense</i>
ANTÓNIA CORREIA, Brígida (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Commission on Economy and Development <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT) Commission de l'économie et du développement</i>
DA LUZ PEREIRA SOARES, Izilda Manuela (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT) Commission des finances publiques</i>
FACULTO DE JESUS, Eladio (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Parliament Committee on Health, Education, Culture, Veterans and Gender Equality <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN) Commission de la santé, de l'éducation, de la culture, des anciens combattants et de l'égalité des sexes</i>
RANGEL DA CRUZ DOS REIS, Maria Angélica (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Public Finance Committee <i>Membre du Parlement national (FRETILIN) Commission des finances publiques</i>
XIMENES BELO, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement national</i>
ALMEIDA, Alexandre (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseiller, Parlement national</i>
BETULAU RAMOS PEREIRA, Jemmy (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseiller, Parlement national</i>
CORTE REAL, Marta (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement national</i>
MESQUITA DO REGO MARTINS, Lilia (Mrs./Mme)	Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseillère, Parlement national</i>
MELO FARIA, Isabel (Ms./Mme)	Advisor / <i>Conseillère</i>

(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)

**TOGO**

DRAMANI, Dama (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DAGBAN-ZONVIDE, Ayawavi Djigbodi (Mrs./Mme)	Third Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Troisième Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (UNIR)</i>
PENN, Laré Batouth (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
APEVON, Kokou Dodji (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission des lois (Arc-en-Ciel)</i>
WAGUENA, Fademba Madakome (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GOMINA, Yassimiou (Mr./M.) Aide de camp du Président <i>Aide de camp to the Speaker</i>	
(UNIR: Union for the Republic / Union pour la République) (Arc-en-Ciel: Rainbow Coalition / Coalition Arc-en-ciel)	

**TUNISIA - TUNISIE**

KSANTINI, Soulef (Ms./Mme) Leader of the delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives <i>Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple</i>
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**TURKEY - TURQUIE**

AKTAY, Yasin (Mr./M.) President of the Group / <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i>
ATICI, Aytuğ (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Committee on Health, Family, Labor and Social Affairs <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)</i> <i>Commission de la santé, de la famille, du travail et des affaires sociales</i>
CERITOĞLU KURT, Lütfiye (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Committee on Health, Family, Labor and Social Affairs <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i> <i>Commission de la santé, de la famille, du travail et des affaires sociales</i>
GIZLIGIDER, Ebubekir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Committee on Plan and Budget <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i> <i>Commission du plan et du budget</i>
SERT, Hasan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Industry, Trade, Energy, Natural Resources, Knowledge and Technology Committee <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i> <i>Commission de l'industrie, du commerce, de l'énergie, des ressources naturelles, de la connaissance et de la technologie</i>
KAVCIOĞLU, Şahap (Mr./M.)	Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Committee on Plan and Budget <i>Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)</i> <i>Commission du plan et du budget</i>
NEZIROĞLU, İrfan (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire général, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>

AĞAÇ, İsa Yusuf (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Expert on Legislation, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Expert sur la législation, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ER AS, Hatice (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Civil Servant, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Fonctionnaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)  
(CHP: Republican's People Party / Parti populaire républicain)

**UGANDA – OUGANDA**

AMONGI, Betty (Ms./Mme) Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians Leader of the delegation <i>Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UPC)</i>
AKELLO, Franca Judith (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FDC)</i>
DOMBO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.) Committee to promote respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (NRMO)</i>
KIYINGI, Kenneth Bosa (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (Ind)</i>
BALYEJJUSA, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (NRMO)</i>
KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale, Parlement</i>
WABWIRE, Paul G. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Parlement</i>
NADUNGA, Esther (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Clerk Assistant, Parliament <i>Greffière principale adjointe, Parlement</i>
TUMUKWASIBWE, Robert (Mr./M.) Advisor to the Delegation <i>Conseiller de la délégation</i>	Assistant Director, Parliament <i>Directeur adjoint, Parlement</i>
KENNETH, Omoding (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	Press Secretary to the Speaker of Parliament <i>Secrétaire de presse auprès de la Présidente du Parlement</i>
MPAWUWE, Sophie (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante de la Présidente</i>

(UPC: Uganda People's Congress / Congrès populaire de l'Ouganda)

(FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)

(NRMO: National Resistance Movement Organisation / Organisation du Mouvement de la résistance nationale)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

**UKRAINE**

GOLUB, Vladyslav (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Legal Policy and Justice <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i> <i>Commission de la politique juridique et de la justice</i>
KRULKO, Ivan (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Budget Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (B)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i>
KYSHKAR, Pavlo (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Committee on Rules of Parliamentary Procedure and Support to Work <i>Membre du Parlement (S)</i> <i>Commission des règles de procédure parlementaire et de soutien du travail</i>

MASORINA, Olena (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament European Integration Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (PF)</i> <i>Commission de l'intégration européenne</i>
CHERNENKO, Oleksandr (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PPB)</i>
YEZHOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.) Acting Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe a.i.</i>	Chief Consultant, Interparliamentary Relations Office <i>Consultant principal, Bureau des relations interparlementaires</i>
(PPB: Petro Poroshenko Bloc / Bloc Petro Poroshenko)	
(B: All-Ukrainian Union "Batktivshchyna" (Fatherland party) / Batkivschina (Mère patrie))	
(S: Samopomich Union / Union Samopomich)	
(PF: People's Front / Front populaire)	

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS**

ALQUBAISI, Amal Abdulla (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALEGHFLI, Hamad Abdulla (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALBASTI, Afra Rashed (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MUHRIZI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALTENEIJI, Nedal Mohammed (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALHAI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
JASIM, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALREMEITHI, Saeed Saleh (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MAZROOEI, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
AL HAMMOUDI, Samyah (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL DHANHANI, Wadha (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Research Office, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Bureau de la recherche</i> <i>Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL BLOUSHI, Hamda (Ms./Mme)	Head, Parliamentary Research Federal National Council <i>Chef de la recherche parlementaire</i> <i>Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL ZAABI, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MEHAIRI, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol, Federal National Council <i>Chef du protocole, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHIHHE, Roudha (Ms./Mme)	Senior Researcher, Federal National Council <i>Chercheuse principale, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALSHAMSI, Hind (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHEHHI, Salama (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL HADDABI, Amal (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Federal National Council <i>Conseillère, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL SHAMSI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director <i>Directeur</i>

ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Deputy Director  
*Directeur adjoint*

**UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI**

EVANS, Nigel (Mr./M.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Commons  
International Development Committee  
Arms Export Controls Committee  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)*  
*Commission du développement international*  
*Commission du contrôle des exportations d'armes*

HOOOPER, Gloria (Baroness)

Member of the House of Lords  
*Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)*

DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)

Member of the House of Lords  
*Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)*

GWYNNE, Andrew (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)*

JONES, Graham (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)*

POUND, Stephen (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)*

LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.)  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)*

PRITCHARD, Mark (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Commons  
Committee on Human Rights  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)*  
*Commission des droits de l'homme*

KENNON, Andrew (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk of Committees, House of Commons  
*Greffier des commissions, Chambre des Communes*

OLLARD, Edward (Mr./M.)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk Assistant, House of Lords  
*Greffier assistant, Chambre des Lords*

RICHTER, Anja (Ms./Mme)

International Project Manager, House of Commons  
*Chef de projets internationaux, Chambre des Communes*

NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.)

Director  
*Directeur*

Secretary of the Group

*Secrétaire du Groupe*

REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Director / *Directrice adjointe*

(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE**

SERUKAMBA, Peter (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

Leader of the delegation

*Chef de la délégation*

LYMO, Susan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CHADEMA)*

MCHENGELWA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

OTHMAN, Juma (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

NDUGULILE, Faustine (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

MARWA, Agnes (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

MATEMBE, Aysharose (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)*

ELIUFOO, Daniel (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

MWAKASYUKA, Jossey (Mr./M.)

Advisor / *Conseiller*

(CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania / Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)

(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development / Parti de la démocratie et du développement)

**URUGUAY**

SENDIC, Raúl (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
(17-20/03)*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation  
(du 17 au 20/03)*

President of the Senate

*Président du Sénat (FA)*

AMARILLA, Gerardo (Mr./M.)

Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation  
(21-23/03)*Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation  
(du 21 au 23/03)*

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Vice-President of the Republic

*Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)**Vice-Président de la République*

PASSADA, Ivonne (Mrs./Mme)

First Vice-President of the Senate

Chair of the Labour Issues and Social Security  
Committee

Education and Culture Committee

Public Health Committee

*Première Vice-Présidente du Sénat (FA)**Présidente de la Commission du travail et de la sécurité  
sociale**Commission de l'éducation et de la culture**Commission de la santé publique*

CARBALLO, Felipe (Mr./M.)

First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives

Chair of the Transport, Communications and Public  
Works Committee

Special Committee on Sport

*Premier Vice-Président de la Chambre des**Représentants (FA)**Président de la Commission des transports, des  
communications et des travaux publics**Commission spéciale des sports*

HEBER, Luis Alberto (Mr./M.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable  
Development, Finance and Trade*Bureau de la Commission permanente du  
développement durable, du financement et du  
commerce*

Member of the Senate

Administrative Issues Committee

Constitution and Legislation Committee

Public Funds Committee

*Membre du Sénat (PN)**Commission des questions administratives**Commission de la Constitution et de la législation**Commission des fonds publics*

MARTÍNEZ HUELMO, Ruben (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

Chair of the National Defence Committee

International Affairs Committee

Budget Committee

*Membre du Sénat (FA)**Président de la Commission de la défense nationale**Commission des affaires internationales**Commission du budget*

PAYSSÉ, Daniela (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Senate  
Chair of the Budget Committee  
Constitution and Legislation Committee  
Population, Development and Inclusion Committee  
*Membre du Sénat (FA)*  
*Présidente de la Commission du budget*  
*Commission de la Constitution et de la législation*  
*Commission de la population, du développement et de l'inclusion*

NOVALES, Gonzalo (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives  
Deputy Chair of the National Defence Committee  
Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries Committee  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)*  
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la défense nationale*

MONTERO, Jose Pedro (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, Senate

ASGP Executive Committee

*Secrétaire général, Sénat**Comité exécutif de l'ASGP*

ORTÍZ, Virginia (Mrs./Mme)

Secretary General, House of Representatives

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP**Secrétaire générale, Chambre des Représentants*

PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.)

Head of International Relations, General Assembly,

Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC

House of Representatives

*Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC**Chef des relations internationales, Assemblée générale, Chambre des Représentants*

GALVALISI, Carina (Mrs./Mme)

International Relations, House of Representatives

Assistant Secretary of the Group and of the GRULAC

*Relations internationales, Chambre des Représentants**Secrétaire assistante du Groupe et du GRULAC*

FONSECA, Ciro (Mr./M.)

Aide de camp

PEREYRA, Raúl (Mr./M.)

Security Officer

*Agent de sécurité*

(FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)

(PN: Partido Nacional / Parti national)

**VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF) / VENEZUELA (REPUBLIQUE BOLIVARIENNE DU)**

MILLÁN, Jorge (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Leader of the delegation

Energy and Oil Committee

*Chef de la délégation**Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PJ)**Commission de l'énergie et du pétrole*

ARELLANO, Gaby (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Media and Communication Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VP)*

ELIEZER SIRIT, Ramón (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Comptroller Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AD)**Commission du contrôleur financier*

VIVAS, Darío (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Member of the Executive Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)**Membre du Comité exécutif*

JABOUR, Yul (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Committee on Foreign Policy, Sovereignty and Integration

*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale**Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSUV)*  
*Commission de la politique étrangère, de la souveraineté et de l'intégration*

SANCHEZ MONTIEL, Jose (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on Domestic Policy

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNT)**Commission de la politique intérieure*

OCHOA TERÁN, Luis (Mr./M.)  
Secretary to the Delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*  
GARCIA SEQUERA, Fenix Liz (Ms./Mme)

Director, International Relations, National Assembly  
*Directeur des Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale*  
Assistant to Mr. Vivas  
*Assistante de M. Vivas*

(PJ: Primera Justicia)  
(VP: Voluntad popular)  
(AD: Democratic Action / Action démocratique)  
(PSUV: United Socialist Party of Venezuela / Parti socialiste uni du Venezuela)  
(UNT: Un Nuevo Tiempo)

**VIET NAM**

TRAN, Van Hang (Mr./M.)  
President of the Group, Member of Executive  
Committee, Leader of the Delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif,  
Chef de la délégation*  
NGUYEN, Kim Khoa (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères*

Member of the National Assembly  
Chairman of the National Defence and Security  
Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Président de la Commission de la défense et de la  
sécurité*

VU, Hai Ha (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères*

DINH, Thi Phuong Lan (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale  
Commission des affaires étrangères*

LE, Thu Ha (Mrs./Mme)

General Director, Foreign Affairs Department, National  
Assembly  
*Directrice générale du Département des affaires  
étrangères, Assemblée nationale*

PHAM, Thi Ngoc Ha (Ms./Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

**ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE**

LUNGU, Mkhondo D. (Mr./M.)  
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

MONDE, Greyford (Mr./M.)  
Vice-President of the Group  
*Vice-Président du Groupe*

Member of the National Assembly  
Minister of Fisheries and Livestock  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)  
Ministre de la pêche et de l'élevage*

KAZABU, Luxon (Mr./M.)  
Vice-President of the Group  
*Vice-Président du Groupe*

Member of the National Assembly  
Local Governance, Housing and Chief's Affairs  
Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)  
Commission de la gouvernance locale, du logement et  
des affaires du chef*

ANTONIO, Carlos (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly  
Health, Community Development and Social  
Services Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)  
Commission de la santé, du développement  
de la communauté et des services sociaux*

CHISHIMBA, Moses (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BANDA, Esther M. (Mrs./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>
CHUNGU, Anne M. (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Agriculture Committee on Communications, Transport, Works and Supply <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture</i> <i>Commission des communications, des transports, des travaux et de l'approvisionnement</i>
NGONGA, Maxas (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CHANDA, Gerry (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Minister of Home Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Ministre des affaires intérieures</i>
MBULU, Rayford (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Ministre des affaires étrangères</i>
LUO, Nkandu (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Minister of Gender <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Ministre du genre</i>
KALIMA, Victoria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Government Assurances Committee on Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights, Gender Matters and Child Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MMD)</i> <i>Commission des assurances gouvernementales</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques, de la gouvernance, des droits de l'homme, de l'égalité des sexes et de la protection de l'enfance</i>
KABUSHI, Moses (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
PHIRI MPAMBA, Naomi (Ms./Mme)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
(UPND: United Party for National Development / Parti uni pour le développement national) (PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique) (MMD: Movement for Multiparty Democracy / Mouvement pour une démocratie pluraliste)	

**ZIMBABWE**

MUDENDA, Jacob F. (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</i>
CHIBAYA, Amos (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Committee Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDC-T)</i> <i>Commission des services publics, du travail et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes</i>

SITHOLE, Godfrey (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DZIVA, Melody (Ms./Mme) Forum of Young Parliamentarians <i>Forum des jeunes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Speaker's Panel Member Public Accounts Committee Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i> <i>Commission présidentielle</i> <i>Commission des comptes publics</i> <i>Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes</i>
MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Higher Education, Science and Technology Committee Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Postal and Courier Services Member Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation supérieure, de la science et de la technologie</i> <i>Commission des technologies de l'information et de la communication, des services postaux et de messagerie</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
MHLANGA, Jennifer (Mrs./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i> <i>Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes</i>
WADYAJENA, Justice Mayor (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i>
CHOKUDA, Kennedy (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i>
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée principale des relations extérieures, Assemblée nationale</i>
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
NYAMAHOWA, Frank Mike (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director in the Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur, Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
SIBANDA, Robert (Mr./M.)	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>

(ZANU/PF: Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front / Union nationale africaine - Front patriotique du Zimbabwe)  
(MDC-T: Movement for Democratic Change (T) / Mouvement pour un changement démocratique)

**II. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES****ARAB PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ALJARWAN, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
MISBAH, Hassan Taher (Mr./M.)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
OMAR DALHA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member / <i>Membre</i>
SIOUDA, Moussa (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général adjoint</i>
MUDHER, Abdulraheem (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)  
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

KIDEGA, Daniel (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker Chair of the EALA Commission <i>Président (NRMO)</i> <i>Président de la Commission EALA</i>
NYERERE MAKONGORO, Charles (Mr./M.)	Member EALA Commission <i>Membre (CCM)</i> <i>Commission EALA</i>
KALIBA, Winifred (Mrs./Mme) Adviser to the Delegation <i>Conseillère de la délégation</i>	Senior Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulière principale du Président</i>
MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to the Assembly <i>Greffier de l'Assemblée</i>
ODIKO, Bobi (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Public Relations Officer <i>Chargé principal des relations publiques</i>

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (IPA-CIS)  
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES NATIONS MEMBRES DE  
LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS**

UMAKHANOV, Ilyas (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération de Russie</i>
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.),	Head of the International Affairs Committee <i>Chef de la Commission des affaires internationales</i>
GERASIMOVICH, Svetlana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Republic of Belarus <i>Membre du Conseil de la République du Bélarus</i>
SERGEEV, Alexey (Mr./M.)	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
ZHUK, Denis (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director / <i>Directeur adjoint</i>

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMÉRICAIN**

GONZALEZ PATRICIO, Rolando (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre (PCC)</i>
CARMONA, Mariana (Mrs./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>

**PARLIAMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN ECONOMIC AND MONETARY COMMUNITY**  
**PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE DE L'AFRIQUE CENTRALE (CEMAC)**

NSOBEYA EFUMAN NCHAMA, Santiago (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
ETOUNG ABENA, Parfait (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BEYEME EVINA, Pierre Francois Guy (Mr./M.) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Cooperation and Parliamentary Affairs <i>Directeur de la coopération et des affaires parlementaires</i>

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)**  
**PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

CISSE LO, Moustapha (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
TOUNGARA, Aminata Kamara (Mrs./Mme)	Second Deputy Speaker Committee on Human Rights, Child Protection and other Vulnerable Groups <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme, de la protection de l'enfant et autres groupes vulnérables</i>
FUNNA, Mabinty Fatmata (Ms./Mme)	Member Vice-Chair of the Committee on Health and Social Services <i>Membre</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé et des services sociaux</i>
LAFIAGI, Mohammed Shaaba (Mr./M.)	Member Chairman of the Committee on Administration, Finance, Budget Control and Audit <i>Membre</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'administration, des finances, du contrôle du budget et des audits</i>
SIN GHATE, Suku (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
GBAHOUNGBA, David (Mr./M.)	Member Chairman of the Committee on Trade, Customs and Free Movement of Persons and Goods <i>Membre</i> <i>Président de la Commission du commerce, des douanes et de la libre circulation des personnes et des biens</i>
FWANGDER, Ezekiel (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
IBRAHIMA, Thiam (Mr./M.)	Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistant du Président</i>
MAGBAGBEOLA, Nelson (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary-General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
MBACKE, Sokhna Mai (Mrs./Mme)	Assistant to the Speaker <i>Assistante du Président</i>
SOME, Bertin (Mr./M.)	Committee Clerk <i>Greffier de Commission</i>

**III. OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS****FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)****ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

RODRIGUES BIRKETT, Carolyn (Mrs./Mme), Programme Officer for Parliamentarian Collaboration  
*Chargée du programme de la coopération parlementaire*

MIRELES, Mauricio (Mr./M.), Regional Project Coordinator / *Coordinateur de projet régional*

SABLAH, Mawuli (Mr./M.), Chief Technical Advisor, Regional Office for Africa / *Conseiller technique principal, Bureau régional pour l'Afrique*

**PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)****PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

SIMAMUNA, Namakando (Ms./Mme), Gender Programs Officer / *Chargée du Programme pour l'égalité des sexes*

TOURE, Kadidiatou (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*

**JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)****PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA**

EBA, Patrick Michael (Mr./M.), Human Rights and Law Adviser / *Conseiller pour les droits de l'homme et le droit*

SCHOULTZ, Kristan (Ms./Mme), Director, Viet Nam Office / *Directrice, Bureau du Viet Nam*

NGUYEN, Phuong Mai (Ms./Mme), Adviser, Viet Nam Office / *Conseillère, Bureau du Viet Nam*

TSEHAIU, Medhin (Ms./Mme), Country Director, Zambia / *Directrice régionale, Zambie*

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (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*

ROGAN, Janet (Ms./Mme), Regional Office, Zambia / *Bureau régional, Zambie*

MAYA, Martim (Mr./M.), Regional Office, Zambia / *Bureau régional, Zambie*

KATONGO, Royd, Regional Office, Zambia / *Bureau régional, Zambie*

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)****ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE**

DJAKOVIC, Damir (Mr./M.), Chief of the Culture Unit, Southern Africa / *Chef de l'Unité de la culture, Afrique australe*

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)****HAUT-COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES**

LO CASTRO, Laura (Ms./Mme), Country Representative, Zambia / *Représentante pour la Zambie*

RICCIARELLI-RANAWAT, Giulia (Ms./Mme), Senior Regional Protection Officer / *Chargée régionale de la protection*

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)****BUREAU DE LA COORDINATION DES AFFAIRES HUMANITAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

ALI, Luluwa (Ms./Mme), Secretariat for the World Humanitarian Summit / *Secrétariat du Sommet mondial humanitaire*

**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)****OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES CONTRE LA DROGUE ET LE CRIME (ONUDC)**

MIEDICO, Mauro (Mr./M.), Chief of Section / *Chef de section*

RIOS, Jorge (Mr./M.), Drug Prevention and Health Branch / *Branche de la prévention de l'usage des drogues et de la santé*

STEELE, Timothy (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Anti-Corruption / *Conseiller principal, Section anti-corruption*

**UN WOMEN****ONU FEMMES**

SAFWAT, Abdelrahman (Mr./M.), Egypt Country Office / *Bureau régional d'Egypte*

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)****ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**ASKEW, Ian (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*BWALYA, Mary (Ms./Mme), National Professional Officer / *Administratrice nationale*CHITEMBO, Lastone (Mr./M.), National Professional Officer / *Administrateur national*MALUMO, Sarai (Ms./Mme), National Professional Officer / *Administratrice nationale*SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*SENOUCI, Kamel (Mr./M.), Technical Officer / *Administrateur technique***INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS (INTOSAI)****ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES INSTITUTIONS SUPERIEURES DE CONTROLE DES FINANCES PUBLIQUES**MOSER, Josef (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général***AFRICAN UNION****UNION AFRICAINE**IKUBAJE, John (Mr./M.), Political Officer / *Spécialiste des questions politiques*NDLOVU, Sharon (Ms./Mme), Principal Political Officer / *Spécialiste principale des questions politiques***LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES****LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES**NASRADDINE, Manal (Ms./Mme), Director, International Organizations Department / *Directrice du Département des organisations internationales***ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (JPA)****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE**KASHETU KYENGE, Cécile (Ms./Mme), Vice-President / *Vice-Présidente*BALDEH, Netty (Mr./M.), Co-President / *Co-Président*PRIBAZ, Donatella (Ms./Mme), Head, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Unit, European Parliament / *Chef de l'Unité Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique, Parlement européen***AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)****UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur***ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)****UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*NIHAWI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur***FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)****FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DE LA CONFERENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA REGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)**HIGIRO, Prosper (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*MBODI, Jenny (Ms./Mme), Administrative Assistant / *Assistante administrative***GLOBAL ORGANISATION OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AGAINST CORRUPTION (GOPAC)****ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES PARLEMENTAIRES CONTRE LA CORRUPTION**ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.), Chair, Deputy Speaker of the Indonesian Parliament / *Président, Vice-Président du Parlement indonésien***MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL****CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT****PARLEMENT PANAFRICAIN**

LUNGWANGWA, Geoffrey (Mr./M.), Chair, Southern Africa Regional Caucus (Zambia) / *Président du Caucus régional d'Afrique australe (Zambie)*

NDORO, Ladislus (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament (Zimbabwe) / *Membre du Parlement (Zimbabwe)*

SIMUI, Muyoyeta (Ms./Mme), Support Staff / *Secrétariat*

**PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)****PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFERATION NUCLEAIRE ET LE DESARMEMENT**

WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator / *Coordinateur global*

AHMAR, Baria (Ms./Mme), Middle East Program Officer / *Chargée de programme pour le Moyen-Orient*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION/PABSEC****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**

EMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.), Head of the Russian PABSEC Delegation / *Chef de la délégation russe de la PABSEC*

HAJIYEV, Asaf (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE (APM)**

AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M), Honorary President / *Président honoraire*

QASEM, Belal (Mr./M.), Deputy Chair of the Third Standing Committee / *Vice-Président de la troisième Commission permanente*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

BUSKO, Vitaliy (Mr./M.), Deputy Chairman / *Vice-Président*

GERASIMOVICH, Svetlana (Mrs./Mme), Commission on Information Policy / *Commission de la politique de l'information*

SHUMYANTSEV, Alexander (Mr./M.), Adviser, Commission on Foreign Policy Issues / *Conseiller, Commission de la politique étrangère*

ALESHKA, Anna (Mrs./Mme), Interpreter / *Interprète*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)****ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCIQUE**

ASANOV, Jandos (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

HASANOV, Emin (Mr./M.), Secretary of the Commission on Environment and Natural Resources / *Secrétaire de la Commission de l'environnement et des ressources naturelles*

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUIC)****UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPCI)**

KILIC, Mahmut Erol (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

MOHAMMADI SIJANI, Ali Asghar (Mr./M.), Assistant Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

**SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM****FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA SADC**

KHOUBLALL, Mahendrasing (Mr./M.)

CHIVIYA, Esau (Mr./M.)

**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 Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs / *Spécialiste principal, Affaires parlementaires*

NYIRENDA, Carol (Ms./Mme), Consultant / *Consultante*

**SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL**

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Secretariat Coordinator / *Coordinatrice du Secrétariat*

**CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES - GENEVE (DCAF)  
GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES**

MICCICHÈ, Claudia (Ms./Mme), Representative / *Représentante*

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**

**COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

BOUVIER, Antoine (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser / *Conseiller juridique*

MAPHOSA, Emmanuel (Mr./M.), Legal Advisor / *Conseiller juridique*

**INTERNATIONAL IDEA**

OLUKOSHI, Adebayo (Mr./M.), Africa Director / *Directeur pour l'Afrique*

ENGUELEGUELE, Maurice (Mr./M.)

**ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 134<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY  
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 134<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE**

**NIGER**

ALIO, Issa (Mr./M.)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Director, International Cooperation, National Assembly  
*Directeur, Coopération internationale, Assemblée nationale*

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 134<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE  
LA 134<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

ALHENDAWI, Ahmad (Mr./M.), UNSG Special Envoy on Youth / *Envoyé spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la jeunesse*

CHAKA CHAKA, Yvonne (Ms./Mme), South African Musician / *Musicienne sud-africaine*

PHIRI, Catherine (Ms./Mme), Zambian Boxer / *Boxeuse zambienne*

NAYAK, Vinay (Mr./M.), Digital Constituency Manager, Obama 2012 re-election Campaign / *Responsable de l'électorat numérique, campagne de réélection Obama 2012*

SWISLOW, Daniel (Mr./M.), Senior Partnerships Officer, National Democratic Institute (NDI) / *Chargé principal des partenariats, Institut national démocratique*

TERLINGEN, Yvonne (Ms./Mme), 1 for 7 Billion Campaign

STOTT, Noel (Mr./M.), Institute for Security Studies, South Africa / *Institut des études de sécurité, Afrique du Sud*

KROOK, Mona Lena (Ms./Mme), Professor, IPU Consultant / *Professeur, Consultante de l'UIP*

HEADLEY, Jeremy (Mr./M.), Expert, Parliamentary Facilities Management / *Expert, Gestion des procédures parlementaires*

CYPRIAN, Awudu Mbaya (Mr./M.), President of REPPACC / *Président du REPPACC*