



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security

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The role of parliament in preventing outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states

Draft resolution submitted by the co-Rapporteurs

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The 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

- (1) *Reaffirming* that the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States and the principle of refraining from the threat or use of force are fundamental pillars of international law and international relations,
- (2) *Recalling* the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the 132nd IPU Assembly (Hanoi, 2015) *International law as it relates to national sovereignty, non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and human rights*; the resolution adopted by the 128th IPU Assembly (Quito, 2013) *Enforcing the responsibility to protect: The role of parliament in safeguarding civilians' lives*, including its sections relating to international law, human rights, national sovereignty and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States; and the resolution adopted by the 126th IPU Assembly (Kampala, 2012) *Promoting and practising good governance as a means of advancing peace and security: Drawing lessons from recent events in the Middle East and North Africa*,
- (3) *Reaffirming* that the UN instruments which stipulate the inadmissibility of external intervention must be respected, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the protection of their Independence and Sovereignty (1965), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the Friendly Relations Declaration (1970), the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States (1981), the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (2004), the 2005 World Summit Outcome; and that taken together, those instruments are of paramount importance to prevent external interventions in the internal affairs of sovereign States,
- (4) *Stressing* the responsibility of parliaments to strengthen democracy, promote human rights and support dialogue and negotiation to peacefully settle internal disputes and prevent the forcible overthrow of democratically elected governments,
- (5) *Underscoring* that the people have the exclusive right to determine their own political future, based on the specific features of their country,
- (6) *Aware* that the decisions of the UN Security Council have universal legitimacy and that any derogations from those decisions may run contrary to international law and the stable conduct of international relations,
- (7) *Highlighting* both the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy, including its capacity to diffuse tensions and resolve conflicts by peaceful means,
- (8) *Mindful* that people do not usually take into account the positive role of democracy if their livelihood is in danger; but *also noting* that democracy and development are inextricably linked,

(9) *Affirming* the vital role of women in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts to preserve and promote peace and security, and the need to reinforce women's role in the decision-making processes associated with conflict prevention and settlement,

(10) *Reaffirming* the important role of the equal participation and full involvement of young people in the prevention and settlement of conflicts, and particularly in ensuring the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacebuilding and peacekeeping efforts,

(11) *Believing* that all States and parliaments are taking stock of the main lessons to be drawn from the dramatic events in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere in the world, and that those institutions acknowledge that it is important to pursue democratic constitutional reforms and adopt new electoral laws which ensure government accountability and equal opportunities for all; and *stressing* the need for parliaments and the IPU to continue their support for these democratization processes,

1. *Strongly urges* all States to fulfil their obligations under international law, which include refraining from the threat or use of force and observing the territorial integrity of other States, while also respecting human rights, State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;
2. *Urges* parliaments to defend and promote human rights, the rule of law and democracy;
3. *Reaffirms* that the only way to conduct inter-State relations is to constantly observe the universally recognized principles and rules of international law;
4. *Also reaffirms* that the viability of the democratic institutions mandated to prevent outside interference is of fundamental importance to respecting human rights, especially as regards the right of peoples to be actively involved in the conduct of public affairs, particularly through their freely elected representatives;
5. *Reiterates* the fundamental value of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States as a means of guaranteeing respect for human rights and democracy; and *strongly calls* on States to respect and fully promote this principle;
6. *Underlines* the essential role of parliaments in preventing outside interference that inevitably threatens States' sovereignty and independence;
7. *Urges* parliaments to establish national legal bases and mechanisms to prevent outside interference in the internal affairs of independent States;
8. *Also urges* parliaments to encourage non-governmental organizations and civil society to participate in efforts to prevent outside interference in the internal affairs of independent States;
9. *Resolutely condemns* all attempts to overthrow democratically elected governments by military or other direct or indirect means of outside interference;
10. *Urges* parliaments to contribute to increasing the number of women involved at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms designed to prevent and settle conflicts,
11. *Also urges* parliaments to consider ways to increase the number of young people in decision-making processes at all levels of national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms designed to prevent outside interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States,
12. *Further urges* all States, regardless of their political, economic, social and cultural systems, to fulfil their duty and responsibility to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,
13. *Calls on* parliaments to promote lasting peace through effective and inclusive dialogue with all social, religious and ethnic groups,

14. *Also calls on* parliaments to be aware of the concerns of the international community relating to cases of interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States under the pretext that human rights are being violated and that there is a consequent “responsibility to protect”,
15. *Welcomes* the contribution of the IPU and its Member Parliaments to defusing tensions within populations, and to demonstrating not only how to work together across political, cultural and religious divides but also how to engage in constructive dialogue as a means of settling disputes,
16. *Invites* parliaments to support the establishment and effective functioning of an IPU observatory which would work within the framework of international law (particularly the UN Charter) to ensure early warning and prevention of outside interference or intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States; and *asks* the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs to consider this proposal.