



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 137th IPU Assembly

St. Petersburg (Russian Federation)

14 – 18 October 2017

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Introduction

Delegations from 155 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Parliaments of the Marshall Islands, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu attended the Assembly with a view to their affiliation that will take effect on 1 January 2018.

The following six Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Andean Parliament, the Arab Parliament, the European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC).

Other observers comprised representatives of: (i) the United Nations system: the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA); the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; (ii) the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the World Bank; (iii) 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 Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, the Association of Senate, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), the Forum of Parliaments of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (FP-ICGLR), the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), the Maghreb Consultative Council, the Pan-African Parliament, ParlAmericas, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries (TURKPA), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC); (v) the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; the World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA); Liberal International, Socialist International; (vi) the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Of the 1,885 delegates who attended the Assembly, 833 were members of parliament. Those parliamentarians included 87 Presiding Officers, 66 Deputy Presiding Officers and 249 women (30%).

Opening of the 137th Assembly

SITTING OF SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

The inaugural ceremony took place at the ExpoForum, St. Petersburg, on Saturday, 14 October 2017 at 7.30 p.m., with H.E. Vladimir Putin, the President of the Russian Federation, in attendance.

H.E. V. PUTIN, President of the Russian Federation, said that his country was greatly honoured to host the 137th IPU Assembly, the largest in the Organization's 128-year history. He stressed the significance of holding the Assembly in St. Petersburg, the city in which the first Russian parliament – the State Duma – had been founded and where Russian parliamentary traditions, law-making practices and parliamentary culture had been formed. That legacy of law-making and party building would provide the perfect backdrop to the work of the Assembly and the search for efficient, common answers to modern challenges and threats to democracy.

It was vital that parliamentarians address the contemporary challenges facing the world. There had been an increasing number of attempts to limit direct contact and communication among lawmakers through the imposition of discriminatory sanctions, which represented an attack on the sovereign right of each State to express its point of view. The IPU must take steps to prevent the erosion of the system of international law and strengthen the culture of inter-State dialogue.

There was no single model of development in the modern world: each State had an inalienable right to shape its own destiny as stipulated in the Charter of the United Nations. Attempts to interfere in the affairs of sovereign States, without taking into account their national and cultural specificities, had resulted in the destabilization of the situation in the Middle East and North Africa and the growth of the terrorist threat. The Russian Federation had repeatedly urged others to combat terrorism without double standards and hidden agendas. A wide international coalition must be established to build a true partnership to fight radicalization and extremism. It was therefore in the shared interest of parliamentarians to promote peace and cooperation with the aim of reducing conflict, preventing the emergence of schisms along ethnic and religious lines and moving towards a more robust and inclusive architecture of international relations.

Mr. Putin declared the 137th IPU Assembly open.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, welcomed all participants and thanked everyone involved in the planning and running of the Assembly. The 137th Assembly would be the largest in the IPU's history: the level and extent of participation was unprecedented and served as a testimony to the heightened importance of the Organization's work. The Russian Federation had issued visas without restrictions to all persons wishing to attend the Assembly, which represented a victory for parliamentary diplomacy and set a shining example for potential hosts of future IPU Assemblies.

While globalization had brought many advantages, it had also led to growing inequalities. Democracy was coming under assault from many angles. The world faced a number of stark challenges, including the increased threat of terrorism, new theatres of conflict and accelerated climate change. The latest human tragedy unfolding in Myanmar, where in the space of a few weeks well over half a million Rohingya people experiencing persecution, discrimination and violent repression in their homeland had crossed the border into Bangladesh, represented the world's fastest developing refugee emergency and had the potential to put regional stability at risk.

A proactive approach was therefore required to prevent disasters and conflicts. By incorporating prevention measures into development and human rights work, significant progress in the direction of peace and stability could be made. In societies where fundamental rights and the rule of law were upheld, the probability of conflict breaking out was slim.

Challenging times lay ahead for parliaments and for democracy. Trying to achieve social cohesion at a time when societies were fragmented and political discourse increasingly polarized was no easy task. Parliamentary leadership and diplomacy had to rise to the occasion. Member Parliaments must guard and protect their respective institutions and engage in inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue to promote cultural pluralism. The IPU must continue to operate as it had always done by practising what it preached. As an Organization, there was no limit to the progress that could be made if Member Parliaments worked together towards one shared vision.

On a personal note, the 137th Assembly would mark the end of his three-year tenure as IPU President. He had devoted himself fully to the Organization's growth and vitality and he expressed the hope that his successor would continue to make great strides towards the promotion of peace among peoples and the strengthening of parliamentary democracy.

Ms. V. MATVIENKO, Chairperson of the Council of the Federation, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, welcomed all those present and thanked everyone involved in the organization of the 137th IPU Assembly. She recalled that the Russian Federation had upheld its belief in the inadmissibility of the imposition of any type of sanctions against parliamentarians and had guaranteed the unhindered entry into the country of all parliamentarians who wished to attend the Assembly, without exception.

It was important in such complex times for parliamentarians to strive to maintain peace and seek consensus, particularly when traditional diplomatic mechanisms fell short and where the threat of conflict loomed large. Words must prevail over missiles. Parliamentarians' primary mission must therefore be to seek agreement and build a strong foundation for democracy the world over. The marriage of universal democratic principles with each country's unique traditions would pave the way for genuine, productive international cooperation.

In recent times, disagreements between States had escalated, leading to violations of the fundamental principles of international law and interference in the affairs of sovereign States. Shared human values had fallen victim to political and economic interests. In that context, the decision to discuss during the 137th Assembly the ways in which the Organization could promote cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue was particularly pertinent and would serve to strengthen parliamentary democracy. Respect for the diversity of traditions, languages and religious beliefs and continuous cultural exchange had not only formed the cornerstone of Russian history, but also represented the only possible foundation on which to build a common, global community.

She welcomed the work of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and its agenda at the 137th Assembly. Members of the Forum had a vital role to play in the peaceful promotion of democracy. Gender equality would serve as one of the key components towards building robust democracies. The equal participation of women in society, political processes and the economy would make democracy more inclusive, representative and effective.

Mr. V. VOLODIN, Chairperson of the State Duma, said that his country was honoured to host the 137th IPU Assembly. It would serve as the ideal platform for parliamentarians representing a variety of democratic institutions and traditions to come together and find solutions to the range of challenges currently facing the world.

Despite the introduction of numerous new online methods of communication, nothing could replace holding face-to-face meetings between parliamentary representatives. Constructive dialogue that respected national and cultural specificities was pivotal to building stronger democracies and preventing conflict. He therefore welcomed the Assembly's focus on promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue and urged parliamentarians to make their voices heard.

Concerted efforts must be taken at all levels to avoid the imposition of sanctions and punitive measures. Work must be conducted to devise mutually respectful and open approaches to international relations that upheld democratic principles and safeguarded human rights. By promoting dialogue and pooling efforts on security issues, Member Parliaments could address the specific problems affecting their respective populations and make tangible progress in combating radicalization and terrorist extremism.

Youth participation would be crucial to building fairer, more inclusive and peaceful societies. The Russian Federation would be hosting the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students in Sochi from 14 to 22 October 2017. He urged all young parliamentarians at the Assembly to extend their stay and attend the event.

Mr. Y. FEDOTOV, *Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna*, read out the following message on behalf of Mr. A. Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General:

"I am pleased to convey my greetings to the 137th Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union. I commend your focus on promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue. I also thank the people and Government of the Russian Federation for hosting this important event.

As a former Parliamentarian, I understand the challenges that you face and the enormous responsibilities entrusted to you. What I drew from my experience helps me now as Secretary-General: To focus on people. To bridge divides. To deliver results. Today's challenges demand that we do all of this and more.

As I said in my opening speech to the 72nd session of the General Assembly last month, our world is in trouble. People are hurting and angry. They see insecurity rising, inequality growing, conflict spreading and climate changing. The global economy is increasingly integrated, but our

sense of global community may be disintegrating. Societies are fragmented. Political discourse is polarized. Trust within and among countries is being driven down by those who demonize and divide. We can only overcome these challenges if we work together to ensure that actors from different backgrounds and communities have a voice. We need to create space for intercultural and interreligious dialogue and embrace it as fundamental to a culture of peace and tolerance.

The voice and leadership of political, religious and community leaders is pivotal. Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue therefore is not just a fitting theme for this Assembly; it is also a call for action to you. Through your parliaments, you can work to support efforts towards inclusive dialogue at home and around the world. You can seek alliances with and support from national and local governments, religious groups and grassroots organizations.

I encourage you to continue your strong collaboration with the United Nations to advance intercultural and interreligious dialogue and understanding – including through our *Together* campaign to promote respect, safety and dignity for all. More broadly, I am confident that your national parliaments and parliamentarian organizations, such as the IPU, will continue to be staunch allies of the United Nations across all our work -- from human rights to peace and security to sustainable development. Promoting diversity, mutual understanding and dialogue has never been more important. In that spirit, I wish you a most productive Assembly."

The speeches were followed by a performance of traditional Russian music and dance and an official dinner.

Sitting of Sunday, 15 October 2017 (Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.20 a.m., with Mr. S. 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 137th Assembly

As recommended by the Governing Council, Ms. V. Matvienko, Chairperson of the Council of the Russian Federation, was elected President of the Assembly by acclamation, and took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT thanked participants for their trust in electing her as President of the Assembly, saying that she would work to fulfil their expectations of her in that capacity and that she looked forward to conducting the work of the Assembly in a spirit of mutual understanding.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*

The PRESIDENT, introducing the overall theme of the General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*, said that the world's greatest works of literature and art emanated from different cultures that were akin to the roots supporting an entire tree. Those works belonged to humanity, that had nonetheless been denied the opportunity to admire the many cultural heritages that had been barbarically destroyed in various parts of the world. It was therefore crucial to safeguard that sacred tree of cultural pluralism from extremists and other proponents of cultural, ethnic and religious exclusivity.

In the Russian Federation, there was an abundance of ethnic groups and national languages, as well as a diversity of religions over which no conflict had ever erupted, thanks to the dialogue and cooperation among their representatives. In many countries, however, the rights of minorities were being eroded through, among other things, religious discrimination and a ban on the use of minority languages in education. As part of disseminating its own approach to cultural pluralism, which was to consider each ethnicity and religion as distinct but also vital to the whole, the Russian Federation had established a number of entities dealing with ethnic and religious affairs, in cooperation with civil society, including minority group members themselves. Parliament also regularly invited minority representatives to provide input to its work and was thus well placed to share their experience and best practices in the area of cultural pluralism. She proposed that a conference on inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue should be organized under United Nations auspices in order to further progress in that sphere, and for which the IPU might also wish to prepare a report in the interest of strengthening cooperation for such dialogue. Saying that she anticipated a fruitful and stimulating discussion among participants, she invited representatives of women and youth to inform the debate by addressing its theme from the gender and youth perspectives.

Ms. N. AL KHAROOSI (Oman), *Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians*, said that dialogue was the quintessence of democracy and a pathway to peace. Genuine dialogue acknowledged all differences and was a way to finding common ground; it must include the half of humanity represented by women. Indeed, sustainable peace was possible only if women were engaged in every step along the way, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which was highly relevant to parliamentary work. Empowered women had a key contribution to make to peacebuilding, understanding and resilience, shielding against intolerance and extremism. The agenda for inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue must therefore uphold the non-negotiable principles of gender equality and women's human rights, which underpinned respect for the diversity needed to achieve social cohesion and peace. Cultural pluralism furthermore presupposed respect for the individual and in turn for the diversity among women that society must take into account. Often the target of hatred and stigma, minority women must have a say at the dialogue table, claim their rights and contribute their unique perspective towards achieving peace and understanding. In brief, the uniqueness and diversity of cultures must be treasured and women were an essential element of cultural pluralism and peace.

Ms. M. OSORU (Uganda), *President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that the need for inter-faith and inter-ethnic harmony was unprecedented in a world where intolerance, discrimination and inequality often fuelled misunderstanding, conflict and extremism. The first of five weapons for advancing that harmony was open, inclusive, transparent, impartial and genuine dialogue that left no one behind. The second was tolerance, which should be taught, experienced and practised in all settings as the basis for understanding and acceptance of diversity. The third was empathy for the suffering of others, while the fourth was knowledge gained through education and access to information. The fifth weapon was equality for all as an antidote to marginalization, alienation and radicalization, as well as a guarantee of fair and people-centred sustainable development for all. Special attention must also be paid to the risk of young people being exposed, through online platforms, to extremist propaganda. Irrespective of background and status, young people must have a voice and furthermore be able to participate in political life. Involving young people in decision-making could, for example, promote social cohesion in instable or conflict-affected countries. Young parliamentarians were increasingly used as mediators, including in inter-faith and inter-ethnic conflicts, and stood ready to work with their fellow parliamentarians to advance peace and harmony.

The PRESIDENT thanked the two speakers for their input and extended a warm welcome to the keynote speaker, Ms. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). She said that Ms. Izsák-Ndiaye had also served as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues and that, as a member of Europe's Roma minority, she had personal experience of prejudice, discrimination and exclusion.

Ms. R. IZSÁK-NDIAYE, member of the United Nations CERD Committee, *guest speaker*, in delivering her keynote address to the Assembly, said that identities were growing ever more complex, multi-layered and fluid in the increasingly connected and globalized world, where different nationalities, religions, beliefs, traditions and cultures were often linked to multiple communities speaking many languages. Thanks to Internet connectedness, food and music preferences were being inspired from around the globe, as were styles and attitudes, while opportunities and spaces for people from diverse backgrounds to meet, interact, co-work, form friendships and fall in love were rapidly widening. The ability, knowledge, understanding and right attitudes needed to live together and foster a culture of pluralism, harmony, and peace were therefore indispensable in the new era of close coexistence.

To that end, it was possible to apply to intercultural relations within society at large the principles identified as essential prerequisites to successful interpersonal relationships, guided in addition by agreements, standards, established rights and duties, and lessons learned from history. In accordance with the first such principle of "do not try to change each other", communities should not be forced to abandon their distinct languages, religions, cultures, identities or traditions. Indeed, all minorities had a right to have their identity protected and promoted by the State, while good governance required legal, administrative and territorial arrangements allowing peaceful and constructive group accommodation based on equality in dignity and rights for all. As to the second principle of "revisit the past", all countries had experienced forms of ethnic or interreligious clashes and tensions that tore the social fabric and inflicted pain, hence rendering dialogue very difficult. Minority culture, history and traditions were also frequently subject to distorted representations that created low self-esteem and negative stereotyping. It was therefore important to acknowledge the historical contributions of each community to the common heritage and to identify shared values and commitments.

Concerning the third principle of "always listen to each other and make decisions together", the voice of minorities must be expressed and heard through their involvement in all decision-making processes, especially those concerning decisions affecting them, in the interest of building trust for the benefit of the whole of society. The fourth principle, "if problems persist, approach them differently", supposed that creative solutions fostered and strengthened dialogue using myriad tools to fight prejudices, bigotry, hatred and misrepresentation and reinforce mutual respect and tolerance. Young people especially should be encouraged to find innovative ways, including through the arts and social media, of inspiring and building understanding, celebrating diversity and consolidating peace.

With regard to the fifth principle, "a crisis does not mean a marriage is over", it was possible, even in times of political tension, for States to establish agreements with affected communities on the basis of universal and regional instruments relating to equality, non-discrimination and minority rights, including provisions for the settlement of disputes regarding their implementation. Transitional justice processes, truth-seeking, reparations and reforms could also lay new and strengthened foundations for more inclusive and resilient societies. Lastly, the sixth principle of "love is a verb, not a feeling" spoke to the need to avoid idleness and passivity in times of peace and harmony by working constantly to ensure that all members of society felt heard, included, cared for and respected and that all vows and agreements were equally respected in troubled times.

The challenges of establishing true and functioning inclusive societies and cultural pluralism involved laying the constitutional and legal foundations for human rights and fundamental freedoms by prohibiting and punishing discrimination, incitement to hatred, hate crimes and mass atrocity crimes. Mechanisms for holding to account the perpetrators of such crimes must be established, together with inclusive entities in charge of intercultural dialogue and minority protection and with adequate funding to develop integration and affirmative action policies and programmes. Minority participation in decision-making bodies must include secured representations in parliaments, while inclusive educational curricula must highlight the values, cultures and contributions of different communities to national heritage and the society, as well as human rights education and development of critical thinking. Smarter immigration policies were likewise required and, for their part, public figures and opinion leaders must act as role models by rejecting all early signs and manifestations of intolerance.

Those challenges were neither legal nor intellectual but personal and political. It was thus necessary to disarm fears, suspicions and feelings of insecurity about others and to depoliticize the issue of tolerance and inclusion so that equality, dignity and the right to identity were never in question. In promoting the implementation of the Quebec City Declaration on citizenship, identity and cultural and linguistic diversity in a globalized world, adopted by the 127th IPU Assembly, parliamentarians could, for instance, initiate social debate through parliamentary discussions and decisions; work with local and religious leaders to combat fundamentalism; and exercise budgetary oversight to prevent the funding of projects and organizations that fuelled hatred and intolerance. The current 25th anniversary year of the United Nations Declaration on Minorities also provided a unique and timely opportunity to reflect on past achievements and ultimately further strengthen international standards on minority rights protection, which was integral to social development and promoted stability, friendship and cooperation. Urging participants to give careful consideration to Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the foundation for togetherness, she said that she looked forward to a productive Assembly and continued shaping of the common future with reason and conscience and in a spirit of true sister- and brotherhood.

The PRESIDENT thanked Ms. Izsák-Ndiaye for her insightful contribution to informing the debate.

High-level segment of the General Debate

Mr. S. AL-GBURI (Iraq), opening the debate, said that the threat posed to regions, international peace and security and development by events in the world's trouble spots called for concerted parliamentary action to address the associated challenges with the aim of de-escalating violence. In so doing, dialogue among all parties and relevant actors was the only viable way forward and compliance with international law essential. Recalling that one of the first laws ever, the Code of Hammurabi, had been produced by the Babylonian civilization, based in what was now current-day Iraq, he said that in more recent history the country and people had endured untold suffering from the scourge of terrorism in particular. The rise of ultra-nationalism and extremism was a worrying modern-day trend embodied in that scourge, which must be eradicated from the country by all means, failing which the establishment of democracy would remain impossible. The liberation of Mosul was surely a positive step in that direction.

Terrorism was not linked to any one region or religion, however, but instead resembled a virus that knew no boundaries and could infect any part of the world. The answer to its defeat lay not in military action but in an international effort, coordinated by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to address its root causes and counter extremist ideologies. Part of that effort should include the rehabilitation of Iraq, which in fact remained united, despite its difficulties. A rehabilitated Iraq would send a powerful message to all terrorist groups that they could and would not prevail.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus) said that cultural pluralism should bring new perspectives that enriched societies rather than intruded on their national roots and sense of belonging. Without a constructive approach, however, inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue could be inconclusive and lead to conflict and the radicalization typified by the alarming rise in extreme nationalistic and xenophobic political discourse often linked with ideological terrorism and violence. Reasonable conversations, free of suspicion and mistrust, were essential to building strong multicultural societies and a peaceful future in a pluralistic prosperous world where differences were respected, an aspiration that demanded a radical change in political and other actions. Lawmakers must therefore work for legislation and policies that promoted tolerance, understanding and readiness for constructive inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue for development, pluralism, stronger democracies and adherence to the rule of law. Goals and strategies must likewise be reset to enhance and promote all of the parameters reflecting the important role of cultural pluralism and thus ensure that the current plethora of economic, demographic, migratory and cultural challenges did not hamper the prospect of creating healthy intercultural societies and global peace.

In Cyprus, respect for differences had remained largely intact despite the grave impact wrought on social cohesion by the Turkish invasion and occupation of part of the country since 1974. Cyprus was a mosaic of different cultures and religions, with diversity as its great strength. As indicated by the allocation of parliamentary seats laid down in the country's Constitution, religion had never been problematic for the two communities in Cyprus, where the problem was in fact rooted in foreign interference. In conclusion, he said that parliamentarians must commit to action by legislating against racism and xenophobia and in favour of cultural pluralism as part of their duty to work together for a global culture of peace.

Mr. D. DRAMANI (Togo) said that his was a secular country committed to promoting dialogue and mutual understanding between different religions and ethnic groups. In addition to laws combating radicalism, terrorism and anti-social ills, Togo had established an organization for advancing cultural diversity through the arts. The theme under debate was in fact particularly relevant to the African continent, which was becoming a hotbed for inter-ethnic conflicts fuelled by intolerance and hatred. It was especially important at the current time, however, to avoid such conflicts in order to build on the significant progress already achieved towards sustainable development, democratization and peaceful coexistence. Cultural differences should be a source of mutual enrichment and integration, with political and cultural dialogue working as a catalyst for peace and development.

A number of African countries, including Togo, were in crisis. The political classes recognized that universal suffrage was the only way of legitimizing government and that challenging the constitutional order other than by the ballot box was undemocratic. As long as the unquenched thirst for power continued, however, together with intolerance and exclusion on the basis of ethnicity, African societies would remain vulnerable to regression. In Togo, institutional and constitutional reforms had provoked concern and unrest, culminating in street demonstrations that had led to loss of life, injuries and wholesale destruction of property. The hope was that the crisis would be swiftly and peacefully resolved through the constructive dialogue under way among the country's political players in the interest of the Togolese people.

Mr. A. BABLOYAN (Armenia) said that, as the world's first Christian country located at a crossroads of different cultures and religions, Armenia had for centuries been uniquely privileged to communicate and interact with a multitude of civilizations deeply respected by its people. More recently, a new electoral law had greatly increased the representation of national minorities in the country's political and parliamentary processes. However, two thirds of the Armenian people were dispersed around the world as a result of the diaspora created by the genocide perpetrated against them during the Ottoman Empire. In their new homes, they nonetheless lived in fully integrated communities and contributed to society while simultaneously preserving their national identities.

In the Middle East, all efforts aimed at protecting and rehabilitating crisis-affected communities, including Armenians and other minorities, must be supported. Diversity and solidarity were interconnected and could promote one another. Indeed, the violence that had erased civilizations and destroyed cultures was feasible only where intolerance and hatred of diversity had found favour in xenophobic environments. In such atmospheres, not only did fundamentalists continue to destroy religious monuments but the peaceful resolution of protracted conflicts was impeded. Outlining the Armenian experience in that context, he said, with respect to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict that, instead of working for a peaceful settlement and implementing confidence-building measures, Azerbaijan had opted for militaristic and xenophobic rhetoric in a bid to impart an inter-ethnic and interreligious character to a conflict essentially rooted in the aspiration of a people for self-determination. As Mahatma Gandhi had said, intolerance was a form of violence and hindered the true spirit of democracy.

Mr. I. KAHRAMAN (Turkey) said that no individual had the right to criticize, humiliate, discriminate against, exclude or be violent towards others due to their differences. Tolerance, living together and pluralism were fundamental values that must forever be protected. The Turkish Constitution provided that all citizens were equal before the law, regardless of religion, race, colour, language and so forth, and they consequently had the freedom to live and maintain their own specific identities and cultures.

Extremism, racism and intolerance lay at the heart of most problems currently threatening international stability and, together with discrimination and Islamophobia, were making lives difficult, especially where adopted by mainstream political parties. Turkey was working to address regional vulnerabilities through its open-door policy towards those fleeing war, violence and deprivation, millions of whom it was hosting on its soil, without discrimination, at substantial cost. It was also deeply concerned by the violence against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and the numbers who had

sought refuge in Bangladesh. Different religions and ethnic groups represented the cultural and spiritual richness of humanity. Individuals must be treated on the basis of their added value to the society and their honest and moral characteristics, rather than their beliefs and ethnicity.

Concerning comments by previous speakers, he said that he wished to set the record straight. Turkey was neither an invader nor an occupier of Cyprus, where it was instead present as a guarantor after exercising its rights in that capacity following the Cypriot coup d'état in 1974. The description of events in Armenia as genocide was similarly false and not recognized by historians.

Mr. A. ABDEL AAL (Egypt) said that, with its long history of peace, his country was a pioneer in the experience of inter-faith and inter-ethnic coexistence, while its people were steeped in the culture of tolerance. In the wider context, cooperation among peoples was key to the eradication of terrorism, which was entirely divorced from the peaceful religion of Islam, notwithstanding that a majority of its victims were Muslim. Egypt rejected terrorism, violence and extremism, as well as social division on religious or doctrinal grounds, as evidenced across the country by the presence of Christian and Jewish places of worship, both modern and ancient.

It was increasingly important to bring together advocates of dialogue and coexistence among different cultures, religions and ethnicities in order to establish a firm basis for coexistence based on respect for diversity. Openness did not necessarily mean, however, that social traditions should be abandoned, especially given their role as a defence against the less desirable effects of globalization. Civilized societies accepted diversity, pluralism and openness to other cultures while also rejecting ideas at odds with the precepts of their societies and religions.

For its part, the Egyptian Parliament sought to cooperate with other parliaments that advocated dialogue and stood up against racism and hatred of others. Recalling in conclusion the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, he said that cultural diversity broadened the range of choices available to all for the sake of development and economic growth, while at the same time providing intellectual, moral and spiritual satisfaction.

Ms. V.M. DHLOVO (Mozambique) said that healthy living called for ongoing and responsible inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue aimed at overcoming differences and promoting unity, for it was only through talking that mutual understanding was achieved. The Quebec City Declaration had reaffirmed the conviction that it was indeed possible for people of different cultures and civilizations to coexist where an awareness of solidarity was present and where serious and responsible dialogue among them was encouraged. A harmonious world depended on mutual acceptance of the notion that all persons were equal and that their differences constituted the wealth and heritage of humanity, as well as a source of social progress and well-being.

In Mozambique, the search for harmonious coexistence was constant in the interest of consolidating peace, democracy and social welfare. The aim was to build further unity, irrespective of ethnic, cultural and religious differences, and in turn prosperity. Defending and valuing the activities of religious entities and their contribution to that aim, the country's Constitution upheld the principle of universality and equality of all citizens before the law, irrespective of origin or status. As to parliaments, their role was to continue furthering sound and responsible inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue by promoting reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, without discrimination; protecting fundamental rights; ensuring universal access to quality education; and combating hate speech. They must build consensus and defend tolerance, harmony and solidarity, as well as construct legal frameworks promoting peaceful coexistence and countering extremism, violence and radicalism. Lastly, they must be bolder in legislating, evaluating and monitoring actions to ensure respect for universal rights and peaceful coexistence and harmony for all.

Mr. K. AL-MAAWALI (Oman) said that tolerance was a core value of all religions and embodied the relationship between all civilizations, societies and ethnic groups. Indeed, tolerance and open-mindedness were human values fundamental to Islam, which had always called in its teachings for peaceful coexistence. To promote cultural pluralism through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue was to pave the way for the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In the present-day world, it was therefore more essential than ever to champion tolerance and reject intolerance, which bred hatred and in turn conflict that could ultimately destroy the planet.

His country's cooperation with the countries of the world was built on mutual understanding and working for the common interest, while its role in promoting cultural pluralism and peace was pivotal. It had, for example, established numerous centres for teaching Arabic as a foreign language with a view to promoting communication with the non-Arabic-speaking world. In that same vein, it had funded a permanent professorship of modern Arabic, as well as a fellowship in Oriental Studies, at the University of Cambridge. Its commitment to fostering inter-faith understanding and to pursuing policies of peace and reconciliation between the Islamic world and other nations was furthermore exemplified

in its endowment of a professorship of Abrahamic faiths and shared values at that same institution of learning. It had furthermore organized a world tour of an exhibition aimed at promoting religious tolerance, mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence, in addition to other activities focused on dialogue among civilizations through science and culture. In February of each year, it also observed World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The PRESIDENT OF THE IPU paid tribute to Mr. N. Lammert, the highly respected Speaker of the German Bundestag, in advance of his statement, saying that he was participating in his last IPU Assembly after 15 years of involvement during which he had always been a powerful voice. The IPU had learned much from him and was grateful for his steadfast support over the years.

Mr. N. LAMMERT (Germany), reflecting on his experience at the IPU, said that the working conditions of parliamentarians differed significantly. Some countries, for example, had free elections, fair competition among a plurality of parties and candidates, open access to public office and the parliamentary mandate, independent courts, and a parliament that oversaw the work of government. Some others did not. It was for parliamentarians themselves to evaluate the extent to which they met their own claims of serious parliamentary democracy. It was also undeniable that a remarkable number of IPU Members had backtracked on indispensable principles over the past decade.

As to cultural pluralism, it began at home. No country could applaud it convincingly at the same time as preventing artists, intellectuals and journalists from using and demonstrating pluralism, as happened in many countries of the world, including some with IPU Member Parliaments, among them - unfortunately - the Russian Federation. In that context, he said that Mr. Kirill Serebrennikov, a famous theatre and opera director, had been under house arrest for several weeks, with astonishing accusations levelled against him. Another prominent example involved Mr. Oleg Sentzov, a well-known filmmaker who had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment and whose case was in fact before the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians. Expressing solidarity with those two individuals and with all those elsewhere under similar pressure from political authorities, he called on the latter to end their persecution of persons demonstrating cultural pluralism. The IPU was about democracy for everyone, which set it apart from the United Nations, which was about cooperation among States of all political hues. Pluralism was imperative to democracy. The promise and common obligation therefore were to ensure that pluralistic democracy was available for everyone.

Mr. N. NIGMATULIN (Kazakhstan) said that action to strengthen inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue formed the cornerstone of domestic policy in his multicultural and multi-ethnic country, which had developed its own model of such dialogue on the basis of various principles, first among them provision of the necessary constitutional and legal support. Citizens were accordingly guaranteed equal opportunities to realize their ethno-confessional interests, with any attempt to undermine inter-faith and inter-ethnic harmony deemed unlawful, bearing in mind that religious and ethnic conflict fostered terrorism, in turn posing a global threat. In that context, he invited IPU Members to support the Kazakh initiative to establish a code of conduct for creating a terrorism-free world as a means of significantly helping to combat that threat.

The second principle was to preserve and develop the country's multitude of ethnic cultures and languages through education, the media and national theatres, while the third was to form effective institutions of inter-ethnic harmony, a unique example being the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. The Assembly had a constitutional right to be represented in the Kazakh Parliament and its experience could indeed be valuable for the global community, perhaps serving as an effective model of institutionalized inter-ethnic dialogue for multicultural societies. The fourth principle was to promote peaceful dialogue and interaction among the many religious organizations representing the numerous confessions practised in Kazakhstan. The right conditions for that dialogue had also been fostered through the country's hosting of congresses of the leaders of world and traditional religions. In sum, Kazakhstan had achieved much in its positive efforts to preserve and develop interaction among its national cultures.

Mr. A. FARRUGIA (Malta) said that all churches worldwide had the duty to seek peace. Although predominantly Catholic, Malta was a tolerant nation where those of different or no faith lived together peacefully and respected cultural and religious diversity. The openness of Maltese society, despite its relative homogeneity, had enabled Malta to embrace a large influx of ethnically diverse migrants and work for their integration. No person was born intolerant and prejudiced; hate was learned. Politicians must therefore do their utmost to outlaw discrimination and bigotry while promoting a culture that espoused inter-faith and intercultural dialogue. To achieve real change, they must also raise awareness of the rights, obligations and benefits relating to diversity.

All religions had a core set of values identified with human morals considered as universally good, while a multicultural society respecting the rights of all was harmonious and healthy. Leading by example, politicians must engage the public on such issues. Religion should not be construed as the *raison d'être* of conflict and war, for terrorism had no religion, as exemplified by inter-faith couples who showed that dialogue and love was possible between different religions. Schools must be encouraged to teach inter-faith understanding and religious literacy that promoted the move from tolerance to respect. Religions were diverse and evolving but their spiritual foundation remained uniform and universal. Inter-faith dialogue was nonetheless challenging at times but to engage in it was to commit to sharing valuable lessons from traditions focused on unconditional respect for others, which was the key to addressing religious taboos inconsistent with those core teachings. Religions were founded on universal values that did not divide but unite.

Mr. S.K. CHUNG (Republic of Korea) said that the Korean people had a shared sense of identity shaped over thousands of years from the same roots and culture. On the other hand, their country was rapidly evolving into a multicultural and multi-ethnic society owing to the steady influx of migrant workers and increasing numbers of foreign students and international marriages. In turn, there was growing recognition of the need to accommodate diverse cultural values and beliefs and seek solutions to difficulties arising from cultural differences. On that score, the Quebec City Declaration had many lessons to impart, which the Korean Parliament had taken on board by enacting a law on cultural diversity to ensure, among other things, that government assistance and training in that sphere was readily available.

Another Korean initiative, the Rainbow Bridge project, had been introduced in 2012 with the aim of resolving cross-cultural misunderstandings and conflicts. Funded by the State, one of its key objectives was to create opportunities for migrants to contribute to community development. At the wider international level, it was essential to move beyond discourse and legislative measures to build an environment where acceptance of and respect for differences were taken for granted. Only then would it be possible to protect and promote cultural diversity and achieve peace. In conclusion, he reiterated his call at the previous Assembly for support and cooperation with respect to his country's efforts to resolve issues affecting the Korean peninsula, including by convincing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to halt its provocative nuclear tests and missile launches and return to the negotiating table at the earliest possible juncture.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that all persons were equal before the law in his country. A pre-trial investigation was under way concerning Mr. Serebrennikov, who was accused of embezzling State funds, a crime punishable in any civilized country, including Germany. Pseudo-democratic slogans should not be used for biased interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States, he added.

Mr. D. SYLLOURIS (Cyprus), likewise speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that many thousands of Turkish troops had clearly invaded Cyprus on 20 July 1974, for which there could be no justification on any pretext. Such matters as human rights violations, destruction of ancient monuments and attempts to change the country's demographic structure were moreover mentioned in the Security Council resolutions adopted concerning Cyprus.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The PRESIDENT announced that, in accordance with Rule 33.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, the quorum of 75 was established for the current Assembly on the basis of the participation of 148 delegations in the first plenary meeting.

The sitting rose at 1.40 p.m.

Sitting of Sunday, 15 October (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Ms. M. Gojkovic (Serbia), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*

Resumption of the debate

Mr. C.K. KONDIANO (Guinea) said that a people that was deprived of its culture was deprived of its identity, its reason for being and, thus, its connection to the land, which often gave rise to conflict. Parliamentarians must be mindful of the need for inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue for the sake of peace and intercultural understanding. It was important to begin by recognizing peoples' unique cultures and ways of expressing themselves. Cultural diversity was a source of richness and posed no obstacle to development. Different cultures could peacefully coexist in the same geographic area and enrich each other without weakening their individual identities.

Parliaments must promote peace as a prerequisite for social, economic and cultural development. However, peace was under real threat: the world was beset by conflicts caused by, inter alia, denying an ethnic group its cultural identity; refusing to recognize religious freedoms; restricting access to education, basic infrastructure and services on cultural grounds; and subordinating one culture or ethnic group to another through the use of force. By tackling those root causes, they could pave the way to cultural pluralism and peace. Guinea had never experienced any interreligious conflict; even so, there was a need to foster inter-ethnic and intertribal relations to ensure harmonious coexistence between the country's diverse ethnic groupings and different languages. His delegation had drawn inspiration from the ethnic and religious diversity of the city of St. Petersburg.

Mr. F. PINEDO (Argentina) said that inter-faith dialogue had helped his country to emerge from a deep crisis some years previously. The crisis itself had had nothing to do with religion; however, inter-faith dialogue had laid the foundations for a way out of the predicament. The then Head of the Catholic Church in Buenos Aires had been the driving force behind that dialogue. Now, as Pope Francis, he had continued to promote peace and inter-faith dialogue including by meeting and praying with Palestinian and Israeli leaders. His example provided a number of important lessons for parliamentarians. First, they must balance political power with the need to find common ground. Second, dialogue was not simply a conversation. Based on its Greek etymology, dialogue implied collective reasoning, which entailed listening to and respecting the views of others. Third, they must make a constant and specific choice between conflict and cooperation. As parliamentarians, they could use their energy to bring conflict and destruction or to seek cooperation and development. Fourth, progress and prosperity depended on providing quality education and good teachers; creating the space for citizens to be innovative; strengthening the rule of law through clear regulations; and increasing interaction with persons who felt, thought and saw the world differently. Parliamentarians should establish confidence-building mechanisms to reduce risk and increase the well-being and prosperity of the world.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), paying tribute to outgoing IPU President Chowdhury, said that peaceful coexistence could not be achieved without tolerance, mutual respect, cooperation and dialogue: the fundamental precepts that people lived by. The United Arab Emirates was guided by the principle of promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence through showing respect for cultural diversity and pluralism. Her country was committed to fighting the terrorism that some countries supported for their own ends, without regard for peace-loving people. In conjunction with regional partners, her country had taken measures to promote peace and security, drain the wells of terrorism and fight extremist ideologies. At the same time, the United Arab Emirates had not lost its humanitarian principles: it provided relief and assistance to people around the world, without discrimination. In that vein, she condemned the humanitarian blockade in Yemen and the human rights violations committed against the Rohingya ethnic minority in Myanmar.

As parliamentarians, it was their duty to tackle human rights violations, uphold international law and observe United Nations resolutions. Parliaments must combat terrorism and violent extremism while respecting sovereignty, promoting neighbourly relations and abiding by the principle of non-intervention in a State's internal affairs. In that regard, she called for international arbitration to address the continued Iranian occupation of the three islands of the United Arab Emirates in the Persian Gulf.

She deplored the situation of the Yemeni people and the foreign-backed militia undermining the stability of Yemen and its neighbouring countries. The international community had failed coalition forces in the Yemen. Allegations that hospitals had been targeted were false and regrettable. The primary source of instability in the Middle East remained the occupied Palestinian territory. She commended the efforts of Egypt to bring national reconciliation to Palestine. In the light of various other threats to international peace and security, such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear armament programme, she called on parliamentarians to join forces to create a better tomorrow.

Mr. A. ALTARAWNEH (Jordan) said that his country had consistently called for peace in the Middle East and an end to the extremism that destabilized the region. Jordan had a long tradition of promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith dialogue in a region fractured by evil and terrorism, where the lives of women, older persons and children were threatened daily. The very future of the region was at stake. In view of the unjust situation in Palestine and the continued savagery of the Israeli occupation, peace and tolerance were destined to be a pipe dream in the Middle East. The injustices that had befallen the Palestinian people fuelled the terrorists' war against humanity. Rather than standing as a beacon for progress, globalization had been corrupted by extremism and radicalism, which opposed diversity, pluralism and neighbourly relations. The region had suffered a great injustice when Israel had been allowed to confiscate the rights of the Palestinian people. The crises in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq were rooted in the decades-long Palestinian situation.

Jordan faced many challenges, not least an economic recession, rising poverty and increasing unemployment, caused by regional insecurity, refugee influxes and the propagation of radical and extremist ideologies. Terrorist groups had infiltrated society, threatened its security and committed crimes on the pretext of religion; and yet, Islam was innocent of such immoral acts. In the fight against regional and international terrorism, Jordan wished for more support from international organizations and other parliaments. His country had suffered owing to the instability, had shouldered the burden of scores of refugees and had secured its Syrian and Iraqi borders, at significant cost. He called on parliamentarians of the world to help fight injustice and create a safe and enabling environment where cultural pluralism and peace could flourish.

Mr. S. KINGA (Bhutan) said that cultural pluralism and spiritual tolerance were long-established characteristics of Bhutanese society. For centuries, his country had endured as a sovereign, peaceful, progressive and tolerant society. The King of Bhutan had been credited with: uniting the country, ensuring harmony between diverse ethno-linguistic groups, protecting religious diversity and championing democracy. Despite its small population, the country was distinguished by its 24 different ethno-linguistic groups. Although Buddhism predominated, there was a sizeable Hindu following. In 2008, Bhutan had become a parliamentary democracy, opening the way for equal representation of ethno-linguistic groups. Parliamentary democracy had strengthened existing political spaces for inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, which were used to good effect to mediate differences and find common ground. An emerging development had, however, given cause for concern. Foreign entities were exploiting poorer, more vulnerable members of society, forcing them to convert by offering cash inducements. While religious freedom was a constitutional right, vulnerable persons must be protected from forced faith conversion. Failure to do so could sow the seeds for inter-faith and inter-ethnic conflict and undermine the country's peace and stability.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda) said that, over the past decades, ethnic and religious wars had ravaged continents. Conflict was inevitable when people were denied their basic human needs and their rights as to identity, equality, dignity, participation and autonomy. The consequences of such genocide included refugee flows and gender-based violence, the brunt of which was borne by women and children. It further led to the collapse of institutions and a rise in human trafficking and slavery. In the past, Uganda had witnessed religious conflicts, as the French, British and Arabs had fought for influence and attempted to convert Ugandans to Christianity, Catholicism and Islam. Although Uganda was now a secular State with no official religion, an interreligious council had been set up to promote inter-faith dialogue and evaluate public activities in that sphere. Efforts had also been made to mainstream gender and equality into all policies and budgets to foster inclusion.

Parliamentarians must ensure that international conventions regarding cultural diversity were domesticated and implemented. They must also recognize minority groups; guarantee their access to education, health, justice and employment; preserve their cultures and languages, including by documenting their history and creating museums for their posterity; and provide for their political representation. For instance, a parliamentary constituency had been created in Uganda to enable the small Ik tribe to benefit from political representation. As parliamentarians, it was their responsibility to identify minority groups, look out for their interests and speak up for them when they were unable to do so themselves.

Mr. S. Ó FEARGHAIL (Ireland) said that, as a nation with a troubled past in terms of religious expression and a relatively monocultural history, Ireland was now a post-Catholic, perhaps almost a post-Christian, country. Many non-Irish persons had been welcomed to its shores, creating both challenges and opportunities. The gentle sprinkling of so many nationalities into urban and rural communities had not only powered the country's economy but had also forced it to recalibrate the notion of Irish identity in a multicultural and multi-faith society. At the international level, Ireland had done much to promote human rights, such as: calling for the rights of religious minorities to be respected; raising concerns about the persecution of religious minorities; advocating for the protection of human rights defenders; and, more recently, providing naval assistance to help those who were making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean.

Children's education was the key to promoting peace. Children were not born with religious, racial or cultural intolerances; those poisonous attitudes seeped in during their childhood and early adulthood. Parliamentarians must actively challenge hatred and ignorance through dialogue. With the advances of social media, however, they were guilty of hearing rather than listening, watching rather than seeing. While social media was a wonderful tool, they must be mindful of its limitations and alert to it being used to spread intolerance. Meaningful dialogue should seek to interweave the rich tapestry of shared lived experiences, concerns and challenges. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to ensure free, open and honest dialogue; challenge those who sought to limit it; and foster tolerance, mutual understanding and respect for human dignity.

Mr. A. ARDESHIR LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the debate was a timely one, in view of the disappointing remarks of the President of the United States. That country had a dubious history in the Middle East: it had launched a coup d'état in his country in 1953; installed a puppet government for 25 years, until it lost its influence in 1979; fomented an eight-year war against Iran, causing the martyrdom or wounding of thousands of Iranians; and shot down an Iranian passenger plane, killing all on-board. Now, the President of a country with such a chequered past had accused Iranian forces of being terrorists, when they were fighting Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) – a menace created by the United States – at the invitation of the Governments of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. President Trump had talked of Hamas and Hezbollah as terrorist organizations, but those groups were fighting the Israeli regime, which had committed genocide against the Palestinian people, occupied their lands and attacked Lebanon.

President Trump had accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of failing to honour the nuclear deal they had struck, yet completely disregarded the reports of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which had time and again vouched for his country's commitment. It seemed it was Mr. Trump who could not be trusted to meet his international obligations. On one day, he withdrew from the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (the Paris Agreement) and UNESCO; the next, he built a wall between his country and Mexico. As for nuclear weapons, while Iran had openly rejected nuclear weapons as a defence doctrine, Mr. Trump had talked candidly of devastating the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. If he was so against nuclear weapons, why did he support Israel? It seemed he wished only to destroy the legacy of his predecessor and to satisfy internal rivalries in the United States, no matter the cost. While apparently promoting democracy and human rights, his country allied itself with States that had never even held democratic elections. In that light, the steps taken by Iran, the Russian Federation and Turkey to end the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic should be applauded.

Mr. A. ALALSHEIKH (Saudi Arabia), commending the IPU for the great strides it had made in promoting peace and security, said that his country strived to foster a culture of dialogue, friendship and peace, notably through the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue, set up in cooperation with Austria, Spain and the Holy See, and the King Salman Centre for International Peace in Malaysia. Saudi Arabia had spared no effort in confronting the epidemic of terrorism that threatened world peace and sustainable development. His country had been active regionally and internationally; in particular, it had launched a coalition to restore stability and sovereignty to the Yemeni Government, in line with the relevant United Nations Resolutions. Saudi Arabia had even tried to prevent the outbreak of the war in Yemen and, over the past few years, had provided billions in funding as well as international aid and relief. He called on the IPU to speak out on the situation of the Rohingya in Myanmar, who were facing atrocities amounting to genocide. His country had been providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh, and stood shoulder to shoulder with the Syrian people, providing aid to refugees and contributing to the political resolution of the problem.

Ms. S. MAHAJAN (India) said that the world was a bouquet of flowers from God, blessed with an array of religions, faiths, ethnicities and cultural traditions, and bound together with the eternal values of love, compassion, justice and equality. Today's world was, however, confronted with conflicts being waged in the name of religion, faith or ethnicity. The world's diversity should be seen as an enriching treasure and not as a pretext for war. Mutual tolerance and respect between religions and ethnicities were essential for peace and harmony. The meaning of pluralism was not simply the existence of diversity but energetic engagement with that diversity. The language of pluralism was dialogue and debate, giving and receiving, speaking and listening. Dialogue fostered mutual understanding, dignity and patience and promoted peaceful coexistence.

India was one of the world's largest, most pluralistic societies; according to an Indian dictum, humanity should be treated as a single family. Indian society was based on spiritualism and humanism. As a socially, politically, culturally, religiously and spiritually democratic country, a number of religions, languages and art forms had been conceived and developed in India. Indian culture was not oppressive, but educative and elevating. Her country was an example of how different religions, languages, practices and beliefs could coexist and prosper. In India, they taught their children to celebrate diversity and plurality from an early age. Parliamentarians had a role to play in fostering inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue. In that regard, the Parliament of India had established the necessary safeguards and created an enabling environment to promote peaceful coexistence between religions and diverse groups.

Ms. T. MODISE (South Africa) said that today's diverse global challenges and conflicts were the legacy of bad policies and the reckless pursuit of narrowly defined interests. The failure to unite to resolve the political impasse had shaken the foundations of global stability and made the world an unsafe place to live. Atrocities and persecution had been committed; millions of people had been forcibly displaced. Women and persons with disabilities were particularly disadvantaged or constrained. It was not too late to turn the tide and build a world free of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance. They must step up efforts to implement the Outcome Document of the Durban Review Conference and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. In that connection, South Africa had welcomed the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the International Decade for People of African Descent, which aimed to increase awareness of African culture and history.

Before 1994, South Africa had been a country blighted by war and apartheid. Since then, it had committed to upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms and had enshrined into law the legal principles of tolerance and multiculturalism. Genuine inter-faith dialogue must begin with acceptance of others; there could be no peace without dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation between different faiths. After 23 years of democracy, a new monster had reared its ugly head: intolerance. Although a serious challenge, it was one South Africa would overcome through its appreciation of unity and diversity. The country's social harmony and integration was no happy accident: it had been achieved through deliberate choices and actions, government policies and collective will. A truth and reconciliation commission had been established to turn the page on the country's painful past. Concrete steps to eradicate racism, discrimination and inequality had been taken. As parliamentarians, they must practice what they preached; they must reach out and teach.

Mr. B.A. SARAHI (Nigeria), paying tribute to the storied city of St. Petersburg, said that the theme of the General Debate was timely and the challenge they faced urgent. Ethnic divides and religious antagonism had opened up new, and exacerbated existing, theatres of conflict, causing humanitarian crises on an unprecedented scale. According to the United Nations, 20 million people were at risk of famine, while 140 million people in 37 countries were in need of aid. At the 136th IPU Assembly in Bangladesh, they had called attention to food insecurity in Yemen, Afghanistan and parts of Africa and observed the coming age of famine. In Africa rising hate speech, inter-ethnic clashes and religious and ethnic colouration had threatened to unleash new arenas of bloodletting. Nigeria, which had once been forced into civil war, had seen a spike in hate speech and a spate of ethnic conflicts that threatened the country's unity.

2017 had been a year of unremitting woe, with every part of the world affected. Conflicts were rooted in the apparent failure to achieve peaceful coexistence for the good of humanity. The consequences of gaps in mutual understanding were visible everywhere: white supremacists had pitched battles with anti-fascist and Black Lives Matter protesters in the United States; xenophobic violence had broken out sporadically in South Africa; and unrest along ethnic lines had occurred in Kenya. Tensions between the Buddhist majority and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar had sent a wave of human misery to the Bangladesh border, with half a million Rohingya displaced in a matter of weeks. It was important, however, not to entrench the perceived hierarchy of suffering. While the

migrant crisis in Europe commanded international attention, the situation in South Sudan, where the civil war had created Africa's largest refugee crisis, was virtually ignored. As parliamentarians, they must lift the cloak of silence over that conflict, which had driven two million people into neighbouring Uganda.

Nigeria was a colourful tapestry of humanity, with 170 million people, 250 ethnic groups and 500 different languages. Its diversity was a blessing that had turned Nigeria into a powerhouse in Africa. There were, however, challenges to the country's peace and sustainable development, notably ethnic conflicts and the brutality of Boko Haram, which had led to the displacement of millions of Nigerians. In that connection, he renewed calls for an international conference on the Boko Haram threat in north-eastern Nigeria.

Ms. K.N. NGUYEN THI (Viet Nam) said that today's world was a place of challenge and opportunity. On the one hand, tremendous advances in science and technology had led to a growing rapprochement between different political regimes, economies, societies and cultures. On the other, the world faced myriad complex challenges, including climate change, poverty, intolerance, terrorism, nationalism and extremism. Bullets and bombs were still falling; cultural heritage was being destroyed, religious beliefs infringed and international peace and security threatened. History had shown that conflicts could only be resolved through tolerance, dialogue and mutual respect.

In Viet Nam, different ethnicities and religions coexisted harmoniously, enjoying mutual development while maintaining their unique cultures, languages and faiths. Their equal rights had been enshrined in the Constitution: all forms of ethnic discrimination and division were prohibited. Ethnic minorities benefited from favourable conditions to enable them to prosper. All religions were equal before the law and all beliefs were respected. To promote cultural pluralism, the IPU should: encourage Member Parliaments to enact laws, repeal discriminatory legislation and improve legal frameworks to foster national unity and ensure fair and equal treatment of all persons; develop criteria to evaluate policies and legislation vis-à-vis ethnic and religious minorities; promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation on cultural, religious and ethnic matters; raise awareness of the importance of solidarity and inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue; and strengthen cooperation with the United Nations, other international organizations and parliaments to support peace initiatives.

Mr. A. HOUNGBEDJI (Benin) said that the world was beset by myriad evils, often related to flawed ideologies that threatened global peace and stability. Many of the worst, most fratricidal wars and conflicts had been launched in the name of religion and threatened the inter-faith and intercultural dialogue. Every society must therefore come together to promote cultural tolerance and mutual understanding to maintain peace. In Benin, dialogue and tolerance were the foundation for building political stability and coexistence in a shared pluralist space. Human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedoms of religion and of expression, were enshrined in the country's 1990 Constitution and a national framework for coordination between different faiths had been established.

With a view to sharing and promoting the culture of peace through intercultural and inter-faith dialogue and tolerance, the Government of Benin had worked with the United Nations, UNESCO and the African Union, among others, to launch the African Initiative on Education for Peace and Development through Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in 2015. More than 400 delegates from around the world had unanimously adopted the Manifesto on Education for Peace and Development through Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue, and he invited delegates at the 137th Assembly, and the IPU itself, to support that Initiative. Promoting cultural dialogue and peace required the involvement of each and every individual who must accept and recognize the humanity of others and the principles and values of diversity and complementarity between peoples. Lastly, he called on the IPU to encourage Member Parliaments to strengthen education in schools and religious institutions to foster intercultural and inter-ethnic dialogue.

Mr. E. CORDERO ARROYO (Mexico), expressing gratitude for the international solidarity shown following the devastating earthquakes that had struck his country, said that there was a tendency to pigeonhole the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as the age of jingoism. Many assumed that political and economic globalization had enabled the world to overcome nationalism and reach a more enlightened stage of civilization. Perhaps that was why nationalist ideologies seemed to have taken the world by surprise. In reality, nationalist tendencies and identity politics had never gone away. In fact, globalization, with its technological advancements and migration flows, had only exacerbated differences and fuelled tribalism. In that light, there was a need to balance cultural diversity with legal and political consensus.

Diversity was not limited to modern nation-State borders or the world's prevailing religious doctrines. Fifteen per cent of the global population belonged to indigenous communities, between them speaking more than 17,000 different languages, constituting 5,000 separate cultural groupings

and preserving their own world view. The challenge, then, was to create legal and institutional frameworks that took account of differing world views. The solution necessitated a dual approach: development and intercultural dialogue. Cultural differences were often marked by development gaps: poverty and inequality were particularly pronounced among indigenous populations. In that light, they must work to ensure that development was inclusive and that opportunities and services were accessible to all, irrespective of cultural, ethnic or religious identity. A clear and detailed roadmap was thankfully already available: cultural, social and religious diversity had been incorporated into the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Providing education, combating inequality and building fair and peaceful societies were examples of the cross-cutting approaches recommended by that ambitious development agenda. As for intercultural dialogue, diverse instruments and guidelines, including the Quebec City Declaration, aimed to promote and defend cultural heritage and foster respect as a prerequisite for dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Mr. A. ALMULLA (Bahrain) said that parliamentarians must strengthen democracy and protect individual rights, promote cultural pluralism and facilitate inter-faith dialogue to foster national stability, achieve social justice and support socioeconomic development. In that connection, the Assembly coincided with the inauguration of the King Hamad Global Centre for Interfaith Dialogue and Peaceful Coexistence in the United States, attesting to the country's standing as a model of coexistence and tolerance. Inter-faith dialogue was the key to preventing conflict, fighting extremism and terrorism and fostering global sustainable development.

Bahrain had been actively promoting inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue for decades. Moreover, it had hosted several conferences aimed at fostering dialogue between Islam and Christianity, between the different Islamic sects and between different civilizations. However, the principles of the Universal Declaration on Democracy would always be undermined while there was no peace, security and justice in Palestine and while certain countries backed terrorists. International cooperation to promote human rights, democracy, pluralism and dialogue was the best way to combat terrorism. One of the main stumbling blocks for greater democracy in countries, however, was the politicization of human rights. Certain entities applied double standards and intervened in the sovereign internal affairs of countries for their own ends. His country reaffirmed its commitment to the Universal Declaration on Democracy and the principles of cultural pluralism and peace, and called on the IPU to ramp up its efforts to promote and defend democracy around the world.

Mr. A. Houngbédji (Benin), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. P. MATIBINI (Zambia) said that pluralistic, diverse societies were characterized by tolerance of other people's beliefs, even when they differed from their own. In Zambia, there were three main types of cultural pluralism based on diversity of language, ethnicity and religion. Cultural pluralism called for mutual understanding and cooperation between different ethnicities, political ideologies and economic status groups. Linguistic diversity and multilingualism were also key components of cultural pluralism, a position endorsed by the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

A nation's languages were a wealth comparable to the natural resources of copper, coffee, gold or petroleum. Language was a historical heritage, an inalienable human right and a repository of human history. Moreover, language was intimately connected with personal identity; thus, the loss of language amounted to a loss of identity. If not backed by a sense of national identity, however, ethno-linguistic identities could become weapons used to undermine the nation-State, giving rise to dissension, tension and conflict. In truth, ethno-linguistic conflicts had little to do with language or ethnicity. More often than not, such conflicts were rooted in social, economic and political inequality. Inter-faith dialogue was an important tool for preserving peace, since it could promote understanding between different faiths and foster acceptance of others. Mutual understanding could thus be achieved, stereotypes eliminated and common problems addressed. The goal, therefore, should be to use religious faith and tradition to build opportunities for peaceful coexistence.

Mr. P. PILLAY (Seychelles), commending outgoing IPU President Chowdhury and current Secretary General Chungong for their contributions to the IPU, said that by understanding, accepting and respecting cultural diversity, the Organization would be strengthened and better able to deliver on its aspirations. In the beautiful islands of the Seychelles, an unusual parliamentary situation had left a minority Government and a majority in opposition in the Parliament. As a result, the executive and the Parliament were demonstrating tolerance and working together for the good of the country. Moreover, members of the public could interact with their elected officials on social media, thereby enriching the national debate.

While recognizing the importance of the participation of all national parliaments, he thanked the Organization for having created a space for the small island developing states to meet for the first time. While issues such as climate change threatened all countries, they had the potential to be catastrophic to smaller nations. In the light of the vulnerabilities of small island developing states, maintaining their existence and preserving their diversity were paramount. Extra effort thus needed to be made to concretize the global actions to be taken and strengthen commitments to the Paris Agreement. He called on the IPU to continue its outreach activities promoting inclusive participation and to consider maintaining a space where the voices of the small island developing states could be heard.

Mr. A. BENSALAH (Algeria) said that the world was facing trying times. The rise of extremism, racism and intolerance were connected to the rejection of the Other and the use of religion and ethnicity to stir up hostilities. Insecurity and conflict were on the increase, in particular in the Middle East and parts of Africa, exacerbated by internal and external factors that hindered development and democracy. His country had worked to build peace, reduce conflict in the region and promote cooperation to foster economic development. At home, the principle of tolerance had been enshrined in the country's Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, while the principle of gender equality and the elevation of Berber to the status of an official protected language were enshrined in the Constitution.

No debate on peace and cultural pluralism could exclude the concepts of development and democracy, including the need to address food insecurity and bridge the North-South digital divide, which hindered measures to promote tolerance and solidarity. The international community must redouble its efforts to eradicate terrorism, a global scourge that recognized neither borders nor cultures. Algeria had consistently underscored the need for political solutions to crises. His country had advocated for political settlements to the conflicts in Libya, Mali, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Any solution to the situation in the Western Sahara must allow the people to exercise their right to self-determination. He reaffirmed his country's support for the rights of the Palestinian people and the creation of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Lastly, he called for urgent action to end the tragedy of the Rohingya minority and highlighted the need for inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue to promote development and eliminate all forms of intolerance, extremism and violence.

Ms. S.B. HANOOMANJEE (Mauritius), commending outgoing President Chowdhury for his achievements at the IPU, said that her country embodied the concepts of peaceful coexistence, unity in the richness and splendour of diversity and mutual respect. Mauritius was a mosaic of different ethnicities and cultures and had successfully managed to achieve inter-faith and inter-ethnic harmony. The country's multilingual, multicultural and multi-faith diversity had contributed to its peaceful and sustainable development and the protection of minority rights. The Mauritian Parliament had taken active steps to preserve the country's ancestral languages and, hence, the cultural identity of society. Government subsidies were given to cultural and social organizations to support their good work, and free education was provided to prepare students for life, on the basis of equal opportunities for all. As staunch believers in parliamentary democracy, representatives of different faiths and ethnicities featured among elected parliamentarians. To further ensure fair and adequate political representation, an additional eight seats were reserved for religious minorities. Efforts were also made to ensure continuous dialogue with the Government and the public to facilitate peaceful coexistence. Accordingly, Mauritius could bring its experiences to bear in efforts to resolve global conflict.

Mr. O. ASADOV (Azerbaijan) said that cultural diversity represented the historical wealth of humanity. As was widely understood, people did not merely belong to a single nation but to humankind. In the face of global problems such as international terrorism and separatism, no State could ensure its security in isolation. A fairer global order based on a new, ethical model of international relations was needed. Parliamentary diplomacy could complement traditional diplomacy to bolster inter-State relations.

At the crossroads between East and West, North and South, Azerbaijan was culturally, ethnically and religiously diverse and embodied Islamic and European values. The State took continuous measures to strengthen religious tolerance, encourage inter-faith dialogue and promote religious freedom. As a result, Azerbaijan was among the world's most tolerant countries. However, Armenia had occupied part of the Azerbaijani territory, the Nagorno-Karabakh region, and had committed ethnic cleansing and acts of genocide, all the while presenting its hostile policy of ethnic separatism as an inter-faith conflict between Muslims and Christians. Twenty per cent of Azerbaijani territory had been occupied for 25 years; 1 million Azerbaijanis had been displaced or fled as

refugees; 20,000 Azerbaijanis had been murdered and as many more had been wounded. The United Nations Security Council and other international organizations had adopted resolutions demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Armenian forces. Armenia, however, simply ignored their decisions and continued to violate international law. Was there no mechanism to force an aggressor to comply with international resolutions? Turning a blind eye to ethnic separatism, aggressive nationalism and territorial occupation threatened global peace and security. The international community must take the necessary measures to resolve all conflicts, including the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in order to uphold international law and the principle of territorial integrity.

Mr. P. ZHANG (China) said that cultural diversity was the natural fruit of thousands of years of evolution. In the fast-changing era of globalization, cultural diversity and pluralism not only presented opportunities for peace and development but also challenges in the form of conflicts, terrorism and racial discrimination. For the Chinese, differences were natural: every country had its own history, culture, traditions, development path and social systems. Inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue was the logical means for promoting trust, mutual understanding, peace and development. Countries should respect each other's traditions, social systems and right to choose their own development path. Such factors should never become barriers to inter-State relations. If countries committed to mutual respect and equality, they could find common ground and build trust. They should choose dialogue over confrontation and promote intercultural exchange and learning. Human society was rich and colourful: by entering into dialogue on an equal footing with countries of different backgrounds and social systems, they could share knowledge and experience, defuse tensions and boost friendly relations.

Many wars were rooted in a lack of communication and cultural understanding. The best way to bridge divides and resolve misunderstandings was through cooperation, which was crucial for peace and development. Historical and current events had demonstrated the need to respect religious and cultural differences to resolve disagreements and achieve common prosperity. The IPU should encourage its Member Parliaments to reject all forms of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and promote cooperation and peaceful coexistence. Different cultures and ethnic groups were unique but none had superiority. The President of China had a vision, the Belt and Road Initiative, of a shared future in which humankind could pursue common goals and development, attain prosperity and achieve lasting peace. Fostering intercultural exchange and sharing development opportunities were crucial to that vision and could promote friendly relations and drive progress. China wished to join forces with other countries to pursue open, more inclusive human development in a culturally diverse world. Cultural pluralism should be viewed as an eternal source of progress.

Mr. I. SIDIBE (Mali), citing the UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity, said that the theme of the General Debate was timely, since ethnic and religious conflicts continued to thrive on the fertile ground of intolerance and hatred. The 40 different ethnic groups of Mali had lived in harmony for hundreds of years. Indeed, the country's cultural richness, religious variations and linguistic diversity had created a familial bond between ethnic groups, thus enabling any conflict to be overcome. Accepting the culture of the Other was the only means of banishing distrust and promoting harmony to build lasting peace. Most religious conflicts stemmed from the same source, namely, a blinkered attachment to a single religion or spiritual tradition, to the exclusion of any other. Significant work in the fields of education, science and communication was needed to promote inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue as a part of daily life. Globalization must not be seen as a threat to national, ethnic or religious identity, but as a source of mutual enrichment and global progress. The positive aspects of the mingling of global populations must be emphasized.

The process of inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue was not without its challenges. Those challenges could be overcome by reconciling differences, fostering openness to the Other and preserving human dignity and the rights of minorities. Religious leaders and faith communities should serve as examples of how to cultivate mutual tolerance and peaceful coexistence. They were duty-bound to snuff out any conflict with religious undertones. As parliamentarians, they must ensure that legislation took account of cultural pluralism, raised awareness of religious freedom and secularism and punished any violation of those principles. The IPU, too, had a role to play in promoting values, attitudes and behaviours that fostered cultural understanding while, at the same time, deterring the merest hint of extremism or fanaticism.

Ms. M. GOJKOVIC (Serbia) said that cultural pluralism should be cherished through inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue. The benefits to society of different cultures and religions should be promoted. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, must encourage dialogue and enable broad public and social engagement therein. They must convey the spirit of mutual respect and tolerance to their societies and stand as an example for cooperation among different countries. Cherishing and promoting dialogue, peace, stability and mutual respect were key values of the Organization.

Serbia was home to a great number of peoples of different religions, languages and cultures; the country was among the richest in Europe in that regard. Pluralism had been carefully fostered through a legal framework that protected the individual and collective rights and freedoms of national minorities and religious communities. In that respect, Serbia stood as a regional, European and even global exemplar. The National Assembly reflected the multi-ethnic and multi-faith nature of society. National minorities also elected representatives to 21 national councils of national minorities, as part of their right to autonomy in terms of culture, education and language. Dialogue within society and between countries was crucial, since the global challenges of conflict, terrorism and migration did not adhere to national boundaries. Together, they must solve those problems, and combat extremism and fundamentalism, by building trust, expressing solidarity and engaging in dialogue. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians must keep the universal values of peace, stability and prosperity uppermost when conducting their daily tasks, adopting laws and overseeing their implementation.

Ms. T. EFUA ASANGONO (Equatorial Guinea) said that the cultural diversity resulting from migration and other globalizing factors had introduced new religions into predominantly Catholic Equatorial Guinea. Religious and political spheres must, however, be kept separate. Secularism guaranteed religious neutrality and ensured respect for religious freedom and equality. Religions must adapt to the rules of the State and eliminate any faith-based exclusion or discrimination. A sensible debate on the use of religious symbols in public spaces was needed. Schools should be free of such symbols, but an individual's right to wear them in private should be accepted. Dignity, equality and justice in all religious traditions must be promoted, since women were often the victims of certain religious practices. Intercultural and inter-faith dialogue took many forms in Equatorial Guinea. For instance, the First Lady, a devout Catholic, had funded the building of a mosque for the country's Muslim community; and the first Sunday in April was a day of prayer for all religions. Religious, civic, human rights and intercultural education were taught in schools from an early age to foster social cohesion, mutual understanding, respect, tolerance and dialogue.

It was important to take all necessary measures to prevent extremism, radicalization and hatred. External provocation was at the root of many wars in Africa. The international community must commit to greater dialogue and fewer wars. Conflicts in Africa had caused misery, displaced its inhabitants and impeded growth and development. She denounced the harassment and sham prosecution by France of her country's Vice President. One wondered whether such attacks were orchestrated to limit the growth of democracy and development in Africa. Ethnic intolerance was sometimes incited by external forces, which provided sophisticated weapons and communications to fuel conflicts in countries whose inhabitants were going hungry. Instead of preparing for wars, they should direct their efforts towards increasing development and defusing crises.

Mr. M. ALSULAMI (Arab Parliament), paying tribute to outgoing IPU President Chowdhury, said that the world was facing myriad complex challenges. The suffering of the Arab world underlined the need to work harder at intercultural dialogue. Arab nations were pluralistic societies where different religions and ethnicities had lived in harmony and mutual understanding in accordance with the tenets of Islam, which taught tolerance, love and peace. Swift action and cooperation were required to combat extremist groups in the region. Western nations should refrain from linking Islam to violence. The Arab Parliament had taken measures to reject discrimination against Muslims and the conflation of Islam with terrorism, and to ensure that the Arab world, which had widely condemned extremist groups and advocated the tolerance inherent in Islam, was heard. He hailed the efforts of the King Abdulaziz Centre for National Dialogue to find common ground between different cultures and religions. That said, there could be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian question had been resolved with the creation of an independent Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders. Lastly, he demanded urgent action to stop the massacre of the Rohingya and called for the perpetrators to be taken to the International Criminal Court.

Mr. A. ARDESHIR LARIJANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of the United Arab Emirates had made baseless allegations regarding the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran that flew in the face of international law principles. The Islamic Republic of Iran reasserted its sovereignty over its islands in the Persian Gulf and reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring security, stability and lasting peace through confidence-building measures with States in the region. He reiterated his country's wish for dialogue with the United Arab Emirates to dispel any misunderstandings and restore friendly relations. The territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran, however, was non-negotiable. Their two nations should come together in defence of the Rohingya and Palestinian people; there was nothing to be gained in recriminations.

Mr. H. SABBAGH (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, expressed doubts as to the number of Syrian refugees being hosted by Turkey and had misgivings as to the role being played by Turkey in the conflict in his country. The Turkish Government had attacked the sovereignty and integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, launching incursions into areas that were outside the scope of the agreement reached in Astana, Kazakhstan. The Syrian Parliament condemned Turkish aggression in the Syrian Idlib province and considered those attacks to be a flagrant incursion, a threat to the security of its citizens and a violation of international norms. Those acts had exposed the relationship between Turkey and the terrorist groups destroying the Syrian Arab Republic and causing Syrian bloodshed. The Syrian Parliament requested the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Turkish forces from Syrian territory.

The sitting rose at 5.50 p.m.

Item 2 of the agenda

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

(A/137/2-P.1 to P.18, Inf.1.rev.1 and Inf.2)

The meeting was called to order at 5.50 p.m., with Ms. V. Matvienko (Russian Federation), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that 18 requests had been received for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, some of which had since been merged into a single request insofar as they addressed similar topics, with the result that eight requests remained. Those eight requests were listed in document A/137/2-Inf.1.rev.1.

The SECRETARY GENERAL recalled Rules 11.1 and 11.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, which pertained to the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda, saying that a vote by roll call would be taken to determine which of the proposed items would be included.

The PRESIDENT invited the authors of the eight requests to present their proposals in advance of the vote by roll call.

Mr. H. MOHAMED ALI (Djibouti), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *The involvement and active commitment of parliaments in maintaining international security and peace through support for a political solution* (A/137/2-P.1), emphasized the value of parliamentary diplomacy in the pursuit of inalienable rights under international law, such as those at stake in his country's protracted border conflict with Eritrea.

In describing the dire consequences of the Eritrean refusal to seek a peaceful settlement in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions, he called on the IPU to support his country's efforts to prevent further military escalation of the crisis by conducting a fact-finding mission aimed at securing peace and democracy in the region. In solidarity with the Rohingya people in their urgent plight, however, his delegation had decided to withdraw its proposal concerning the emergency item and instead submit it for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security at its next session.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), presenting her delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in addressing the breakdown of the constitutional order and the disregard for the National Assembly in Venezuela* (A/137/2-P.2), said that her country was enduring a humanitarian crisis amid the severe shortages of food and medicines affecting so many of its inhabitants. It was also in deep political crisis following the recent unconstitutional elections and the subsequent establishment of the Constituent Assembly. Her delegation was grateful to the IPU for its support and its efforts to contribute towards the resolution of the situation. She added that the Speaker of the National Assembly had been prevented from travelling to the Assembly and that she herself had been threatened with the confiscation of her passport on return to the country. Her delegation nonetheless wished to withdraw its emergency item proposal.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia), presenting her delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Promoting spaces for the establishment of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration* (A/137/2-P.8), said that humanitarian crises were precipitated by gaping social inequalities exemplified in the lack of access for some to basic essentials and services. Concerted efforts must therefore be made to build a truly equal world for all, including by addressing the causes behind the current unprecedented scale of forced displacements and

migration. Rooted in the outcomes of a conference recently hosted by her country on working for universal citizenship in a world without walls, her delegation's proposal was aimed at breaking down barriers and fostering interaction as a contribution towards development of the global compact to which it referred. Her delegation had decided, however, to withdraw the proposal and instead submit it for the consideration of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at its next session.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *The role of parliaments in countering the growing threat of terrorism (A/137/2-P.13)*, said that terrorism was among the most serious of all global threats and demanded full attention from the international community. With its indiscriminate killing and targeting of innocents, terrorism not only violated human rights but was effectively a crime against humanity, increasingly unrestrained by boundaries. An urgent coordinated international response was the only way forward to effectively defeating terrorism, including by ending the false distinction between "good" and "bad" terrorism sometimes wrongly used to justify it. Despite the utmost importance and current relevance of the fight against terrorism, however, his delegation had decided to withdraw its proposal for the emergency item on the grounds that the subject had already been discussed within the confines of the IPU.

Mr. S. SONODA (Japan), presenting also on behalf of the delegation of Mexico a merged proposal for an emergency item entitled *Threats to peace and international security arising from the nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (A/137/2/P.14)*, said that the latter country's recent acts, including the conduct of its sixth and largest nuclear test and its repeated launch of ballistic missiles, posed an unprecedented, grave and imminent threat to Japan, the entire region and indeed international peace and security. The IPU must firmly condemn such reckless acts and call on that country's authorities to abandon their nuclear and missile programmes and comply fully with relevant Security Council resolutions. Dire consequences would soon result in the absence of international solidarity and immediate action for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. He therefore hoped that the merged proposal would receive the Members' support.

A delegate from the DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA said that it was unreasonable for his country's nuclear testing to be called into question in a manner that negated the legitimate right of a sovereign State to self-defence and furthermore ran counter to the IPU mission to promote international peace and security. The nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula had originated only as a result of decades-long hostile United States policies and nuclear blackmail against his country, which had made numerous attempts at all levels to pacify the situation, only to face the outrage of being publicly threatened with destruction by the United States President. He therefore expected all delegations to appreciate that his country's nuclear power was intended for none other than deterrent purposes and, accordingly, to take a fair and impartial stand towards the issue.

Ms. A. ALQUBAISI (United Arab Emirates), presenting also on behalf of the delegations of Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan and Turkey the merged proposal for an emergency item entitled *Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar (A/137/2-P.15)*, said that the relevance of promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue was all too manifest in the persecution of the Rohingya people and the grave violation of their human rights contrary to international law. In line with the aim of eliminating racial discrimination and spreading a culture of human rights and tolerance, therefore, parliamentarians had a moral obligation to work for an end to the violence against the Rohingya. Swift action must be taken to protect and assist the Rohingya people and address the root causes of the situation, described by the United Nations Secretary-General as the world's fastest developing refugee emergency and a humanitarian and human rights nightmare.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh), further continuing the presentation on behalf of the delegations, added that the merged proposal represented a voice for humanity and those denied basic human rights. Bangladesh was hosting millions of Rohingya, providing them with food, shelter and emergency services, despite its own space and resource constraints. For decades, the Rohingya had been subjected to discrimination and persecution, including the denial of citizenship that had rendered them stateless. The brutal attacks coordinated and organized by the Myanmar authorities were apparently designed to remove the Rohingya people from the Rakhine State and prevent their return, whereas they must instead be peacefully and unconditionally settled in their original places of residence there, with full citizenship and human rights. He urged Members to support the merged proposal.

Mr. R. LEÓN RÁMIREZ (Chile), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *The Inter-Parliamentary Union supports the Parliament of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, threatened in its functions, powers and existence (A/137/2-P.16)*, said that the current situation in Venezuela was clearly not as serious as the Rohingya crisis but warranted attention nonetheless. Chileans who had fought the military dictatorship in their country fully appreciated the difficulties faced by the Venezuelan people and supported their cause as a matter of principle. His delegation recognized, however, the immediate urgency of the situation affecting the Rohingya and had therefore decided to withdraw its proposal, while at the same time urging the IPU to persist in calling on the Venezuelan Government to respect the rights of the country's legitimately elected parliamentarians.

Mr. T. KHUN MYATT (Myanmar), presenting his delegation's proposal for an emergency item entitled *Humanitarian situation in Rakhine State (A/137/2-P.17)*, said that there were no quick fixes to the complex and challenging situation created in the Rakhine State after decades of fear and mistrust between the Muslim and Rakhine communities, compounded by chronic under-development and poverty. The recent escalation of violence ignited by coordinated attacks on border police posts had only exacerbated that situation, notwithstanding the Government's rapid humanitarian response. His delegation's proposed draft resolution on the subject acknowledged the different ethnicities and faiths of the victims and recalled the key tasks identified for action: repatriation; resettlement and rehabilitation; and the establishment of sustainable peace, stability and development. His delegation called on all stakeholders to provide assistance to all victims, without discrimination, and counted on full support for the draft resolution and the Myanmar Government's future endeavours.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom), describing the Myanmar proposal as entirely superfluous, said that the killing and removal of thousands from their homelands involved no complexity; it was simply ethnic cleansing of the worst kind against which the international community must take a stand and speak out directly. He called on the Myanmar delegation to withdraw its proposal for the sake of decency.

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed in voting by roll call on the three proposals that remained following the withdrawal of the five others and drew attention to the allocation of votes listed in document A/137/Inf.2.

The President of the IPU took the Chair.

A vote by roll call was taken.

With 47 votes in favour, 627 against and 593 abstentions, the proposal submitted by the delegation of Myanmar failed to obtain the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast and was therefore rejected.

With 478 votes in favour, 208 against and 581 abstentions, the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Japan and Mexico obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

With 1,027 votes in favour, 35 against and 205 abstentions, the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates obtained the required two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

Having obtained the required two-thirds majority and the largest number of positive votes cast, the merged proposal submitted by the delegations of Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates was added to the agenda of the Assembly as Item 7.

The SECRETARY GENERAL appealed to the geopolitical groups to submit promptly their nominations for membership of the drafting committee to be tasked with finalizing a draft resolution on the chosen emergency item.

The meeting rose at 7.50 p.m.

Final agenda

1. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 137th Assembly
 2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
 3. General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue*
 4. Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy (*Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*)
 5. Reports of the Standing Committees on Peace and International Security; Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade; and United Nations Affairs
 6. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 139th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs
 7. *Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar*
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Sitting of Monday, 16 October

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.10 a.m., with Ms. M. Lohela (Finland), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 7 of the agenda

Plenary debate on the emergency item:

Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar

(A/137/2-P.15)

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) said that he wished to thank delegates for having voted for the merged proposal on the situation of the Rohingya people. On behalf of the Bangladeshi Parliament, he and IPU President Chowdhury had visited a refugee camp in Bangladesh and had heard the refugees' own accounts of events. Husbands had been mown down in front of their wives; women raped in sight of their husbands and families; parents murdered before their children's very eyes. Scores of people had been made homeless and forced to make the 15-day journey on foot to the Bangladesh border. Since 25 August 2017, almost half of the entire 1.2 million Rohingya population had travelled to Bangladesh, fleeing the atrocities committed by the Myanmar security forces and extremist civilian vigilantes. Tens of thousands more women and children had been internally displaced in Myanmar, without access to vital humanitarian aid. The suffering, in particular of women and children, was on an unprecedented scale. While Bangladesh was a small country that often struggled to feed its own citizens, it had welcomed the refugees and given them food and shelter. Bangladesh was grateful to the international organizations and States that had provided food, humanitarian assistance and medical support. The international community must now exhort the Myanmar Parliament to allow the unconditional return of the Rohingya refugees and to grant them full citizenship. He hoped that, by adopting the resolution on the emergency item, the world's attention would be focused on the issue and the Myanmar Parliament would be obliged to take action.

Mr. T. MULCAIR (Canada) said it was a sad reflection on the state of the world that, while they were discussing in their General Debate the theme of promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, the Rohingya, a religious minority, were being persecuted, forced from their homes, ill-treated and killed for no other reason than for who they were. The international community must denounce the State-sponsored racism and brazen discrimination occurring in Myanmar. The Canadian Parliament had held two emergency debates on the tragedy as well as extensive consultations on the shameful rise in Islamophobia. Parliamentarians were duty-bound to act: they must strongly denounce the violence committed by the Myanmar Government against the Rohingya minority. Now, with the weight of the IPU behind them, they must call on their respective governments to do their utmost to end the flagrant human rights violations of the Rohingya people. In the wake of the Holocaust, he recalled, the world had vowed "never again". That vow must never be forgotten.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), thanking the delegates for having supported the merged proposal, said he hoped that the adoption of a resolution on the emergency item would send a message of support to the oppressed Rohingya people and induce Myanmar to end their inhumane treatment. The Rohingya people's rights to their homeland, basic services, political participation, cultural and religious freedom and citizenship must be upheld. The international community must act decisively to alleviate the suffering of innocent, oppressed peoples across the world, including in the Yemen, he added, where citizens were under bombardment. As fellow humans, they must not stay silent in the face of such brutality.

Ms. M. MOHD YAZID (Malaysia) said that the Malaysian Parliament was gravely concerned by the continued and blatant violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, which had caused a surge in irregular migration and sparked a humanitarian crisis. Hundreds of thousands of civilians had fled into neighbouring Bangladesh. Such large, irregular migration flows threatened the peace and stability of the entire region. Moreover, the Rohingya could become vulnerable to extremists. Notwithstanding the principle of non-interference, the international community had an obligation to uphold international human rights principles. The Myanmar Government must implement the recommendations of the

Advisory Commission on Rakhine State without delay; allow immediate and unfettered access for humanitarian aid organizations; take concrete action to prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis; and ensure the sustainable, safe and dignified return of Rohingya refugees to their homeland, where they should be able to live without fear of persecution for their religion or ethnicity. Military solutions were not the answer: stability could only be achieved with an end to the violence, the displacement and the misery.

Mr. F. ZON (Indonesia) said that a decades-old and deeply disturbing pattern of discrimination in the Rakhine State had led to violence, forcing hundreds of thousands of members of the Rohingya ethnic group to flee their homes. He questioned the Myanmar delegation's claims that progress had been made in resolving the crisis. Myanmar had rejected a United Nations resolution calling for the Rohingya to be granted citizenship; banned the Rohingya from voting in general elections, depriving them of political representation; and restricted the birth registration of thousands of Rohingya children, thus limiting their access to basic services. As Rohingya refugees streamed into the neighbouring countries, the IPU must ensure that their basic needs were met. At the same time, it must seek the sustainable and inclusive development of all Myanmar communities, including the Rohingya. On behalf of the Indonesian people, he urged Myanmar to grant citizenship and other legal rights to the Rohingya and guarantee unrestricted access for humanitarian aid organizations and international investigators. He further called on the Myanmar Government to fully observe the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, particularly as regards nationality rights for women and children.

Ms. A. CLWYD (United Kingdom) said that, having campaigned tirelessly for Aung San Suu Kyi and other parliamentarians who had been imprisoned for years in Burma, it was bitterly disappointing that Aung San Suu Kyi had not spoken out in defence of the Rohingya people. They had been treated disgracefully: anyone with even an inch of humanity must care about their plight. Villages had been burned down and people had been thrown on the fires; such brutal acts were truly horrifying. Half a million Rohingya refugees had now crossed into Bangladesh, which was struggling to cope with the enormity of the problem. Doctors in the camps were struggling with the sheer scale of the sickness and suffering. The Rohingya had escaped the carnage in their own country, only to perish in the camps. She called on the Government of Myanmar to act humanely towards its own people. Such was the strength of feeling at the IPU, she hoped it would have prompt action not only from the United Nations and the international community but also from the people of Myanmar, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Mr. N. SINGH (India) said that the recent violence in the Rakhine State was deeply concerning. It had resulted in large outflows of people, many of whom had sought shelter in neighbouring Bangladesh. The violence must end and normality be restored through a solution based on respect for peace, harmony, justice, dignity and democratic values, and taking into account the welfare of the civilian population. The international community must recognize the commendable efforts made by Bangladesh and provide much-needed support. India had responded to the crisis by providing assistance to meet the basic needs of 72,000 families in the relief camps.

For a lasting solution, socioeconomic and infrastructural development was needed. The underlying issues of citizenship and residence must also be addressed, in line with the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. He welcomed the commitment made by the Myanmar Government to implement those recommendations and allow the return of those who had fled, in line with the terms of the 1993 repatriation agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar. In that light, India had already offered its assistance on infrastructure projects and stood ready to provide additional support to both countries. However, the issue should not be viewed solely through the prism of ethnicity or religion: all displaced persons must be able to return to their homelands.

The PRESIDENT paused the debate to consider the drafting committee and said that nominations had been received for membership of the drafting committee to finalize the draft resolution on the merged proposal for an emergency item submitted by the delegations of Morocco, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan and Turkey. She recalled that the composition of the drafting committee must take account of equitable geographical distribution and ensure political and gender balance. Nominations from several geopolitical groups had been received; nominations from the other geopolitical groups should be submitted as soon as possible.

Mr. A.L.S. SSEBAGALA (Uganda) said that the situation of the Rohingya touched upon the three main pillars of the IPU: peace, human rights and democracy. No human being could fail to be moved by the events occurring in Myanmar. The images had been harrowing: children, women and older persons had been murdered; people had been thrown into ditches, then shot and set on fire. It was thus disappointing that the Myanmar delegation had submitted its own proposal for an emergency item. As parliamentarians, they must condemn in no uncertain terms the crimes against humanity being committed by Myanmar leaders. The Ugandan Parliament strongly supported the recommendations of the Kofi Annan-led Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and commended the Government of Bangladesh for its efforts to help the Rohingya. As parliamentarians, they must speak out on the situation of the Rohingya; otherwise, what had happened in Myanmar could also happen elsewhere.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco), speaking as one of the delegations involved in the merged proposal, said it was clear from the outcome of the vote that there was widespread condemnation of the events occurring in Myanmar. Television images had revealed the shocking truth of rape, murder and brutality. The Government of Bangladesh must be commended for opening its doors to the refugees and providing them with humanitarian aid. However, the international community must do more to help, since the basic necessities were desperately needed. As members of the IPU, they must speak with one voice and condemn the ethnic cleansing and inhumane treatment of the Rohingya. He hoped that, by drafting a strongly worded resolution, enough pressure would be exerted on the Government of Myanmar to force it to act.

Mr. A. SAIDOV (Uzbekistan) said that inter-ethnic and inter-faith peace was a major priority in Uzbekistan. In a country of more than 130 ethnic groups and 16 religious confessions, it was important for all decisions to be made on the basis of dialogue. For that reason, his Government had adopted a development strategy covering five main development areas and emphasizing that the Government was at the service of the people, not the other way around. Various measures had been taken: a committee of reconciliation had been set up, mosques rebuilt and a garden of friendship opened. All ethnic groups and minorities enjoyed equal rights. His country was secular and was thus against proselytizing. Faith should not be imposed; rather, it should be an individual choice. At the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly, the President of Uzbekistan had proposed adopting a special resolution on religious tolerance. Lastly, he expressed support for a proposal made by the Russian Federation to hold an international conference promoting inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue. The event could, perhaps, be linked to commemorations of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 2018.

Mr. E. GIZLIGIDER (Turkey) said that what was happening to the Rohingya Muslim community in the Rakhine State of Myanmar was tantamount to ethnic cleansing. Already living in extreme poverty and deprived of their citizenship rights, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya had seen their villages burned down and been forced to flee their native country. The refugee camps in Bangladesh could not meet even basic human needs. The international community had once again failed the test, just as it had in the Syrian Arab Republic. Unless the tragedy unfolding in Myanmar was brought to a halt, humanity would have to live with another dark stain on its history.

Measures must be taken to ensure that the Rohingya people could live in a safe, peaceful and prosperous manner on the lands that they had occupied for centuries. Turkey was actively trying to resolve the crisis: the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency was the only aid organization still operating in Myanmar; Turkish NGOs were delivering humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees; and a Turkish delegation had visited the refugee camps in Bangladesh. He had seen for himself the plight of the women and children in the refugee camps. Landmines had been planted along the border, barring their return home; some even prayed to die in them. He had seen no older persons in the camp, he added; they had not survived the journey. He wondered whether they had even received a proper burial. Bangladesh, the only country where they could seek refuge, was itself experiencing economic problems. He urged international organizations, including the United Nations, to do their utmost to help.

Mr. M. ELAMIN KHALIFA (Sudan) said that the military campaign, savage attacks and odious crimes being perpetrated in Myanmar were truly shocking. Crimes against humanity and human rights violations must not be tolerated. His country had sent a parliamentary delegation and food, medical assistance and other forms of humanitarian aid to alleviate the suffering of their Rohingya cousins: all humans were part of the same family. It was time to match words with deeds. Discrimination on the basis of ethnicity or religion must be stamped out; it constituted a threat to international peace and stability. As parliamentarians, it was their duty to raise awareness of the acts of persecution, violence

and discrimination being committed against the Rohingya minority. Their situation was a source of shame to humanity: for all the international conventions that were in place, the violence raged unabated and the Rohingya minority continued to suffer. He called on the international community to take urgent action to end their torment. The Rohingya must be returned to their own country and provided with humanitarian assistance without further delay. A committee under the auspices of the IPU should be sent to investigate the crimes committed in Myanmar.

Ms. V. Matvienko (Russian Federation), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

**General Debate on Promoting cultural pluralism and peace
through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue**

(Resumption of the debate)

The PRESIDENT introduced special guest speaker, His Holiness the Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, Chair of the Inter-Religious Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and invited him to address the Assembly.

His Holiness the Patriarch KIRILL of Moscow and All Russia, *Guest speaker*, said that, in today's complex, volatile and unpredictable world, finding a moral consensus on which to build justice was the only way to achieve peaceful coexistence between different peoples and cultures. In the early 1990s, after a decades-long conflict between two ideological systems, a stable, prosperous and secure new world had been predicted to emerge, predicated on the victory of apparently universal values. According to Francis Fukuyama, humanity's sociocultural evolution had completed and the ideals of political and economic liberalism had triumphed. Those so-called fundamental values had, however, failed to stand the test of time. Alas, today's world was no safer or more stable than it had been in yesteryears. In the ongoing quest for stability, however, there was a growing role for traditional religions to play, since, by their very nature, they sought to preserve the moral basis of society.

Throughout history, laws had been linked to the God-given moral principles of humanity; and yet, the modern world had increasingly disregarded that connection. The role of parliamentarians was to coordinate different, often divergent, opinions and establish justice through legislation. The word "justice", however, had not necessarily always signified the administration of standard rules and norms alone. In Ancient Greece, the concept had symbolized both justice and righteousness, while the etymology of the Russian word referred to the notion of divine truth. If justice and society were no longer anchored in deep, centuries-old ethical foundations, then the moral precepts and norms of human nature would cease to be effective restraints. Peace and happiness could not be achieved without shared moral values that were supported by society as a whole. Increasingly, however, values were based on politics and philosophy, severed from national, cultural and historical contexts. Some societies still hailed their political values as ideal and universal, declaring it their goal to spread them around the world, with no regard for the historical and cultural uniqueness of other countries. As such, national parliaments increasingly lacked the freedom to define their own values without facing external pressure or interference from those political systems claiming to be the highest authorities.

Despite differences between cultures, peoples and institutions, humans possessed an innate moral feeling and conscience. Diversity was nothing but a superstructure; moral feeling was the universal trait with which humans were born. It was not a construct of those who had invented their own so-called universal values; it could not be modified or supposedly improved to suit political, ideological or financial interests. The world's religions differed in their precepts and dogmas; and yet, when it came to morality and the basic conditions for peaceful coexistence, they appealed to the human conscience and revealed a moral consensus. Indeed, the golden rule of morality – the principle of treating others as one wished to be treated – was the basis for such moral consensus. Just as in popular visual culture, it was human nature to emulate positive protagonists. The forces of good always emerged victorious; villains could not be role models. It was that shared human morality that should be protected by religion, education and law.

Moral imperatives not only guided the private lives of individuals but also influenced States and international relations. For that reason, the true value of law was only revealed when it was based on human morality. Laws that were not rooted in human moral nature did not elicit a response in the heart. Such laws were useless, if not pernicious, to society: they could shield vice and bring about society's moral downfall. During the twentieth century, attempts had been made to create man anew by substituting ethnical norms for ideological expediency embodied in law. The severing of the link between law and morality had created an unprecedented situation in human history. Values previously

deemed to be violations of moral principles had now been enshrined into law. Ideological principles, rather than the essence of the moral foundation, had been recognized as universal values. A moral consensus could only be established through shared values that were rooted in the human conscience. Interreligious dialogue based on the universal moral value could help representatives of different traditions to overcome mistrust, combat radicalism and advocate on issues with a moral dimension.

His meeting with Pope Francis in February 2016 had provided an opportunity to come together on shared common ground, such as the traditional family, the fight against terror and pseudo-religious extremism. There was now a need – and a chance to achieve – a shared moral consensus. In that vein, the Russian Orthodox Church maintained contact with Protestant denominations and the World Council of Churches, while simultaneously pursuing dialogue with Muslim communities to reinforce their shared moral values, trust and friendship. The humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic had sparked genuine concern among its parishioners, who had organized the collection and delivery of aid for those in need. The moral imperative had guided his Church in efforts to bring together Armenian Christian leaders and Azerbaijani Muslim leaders in an effort to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, thus attesting to the peacekeeping potential of religion. Similarly, the Russian Orthodox Church had adopted a peacekeeping approach to the civil conflict in Ukraine, advocating for national reconciliation and rejecting conflict and violence. Despite attempts to draw the Church into the conflict or force it to take sides, it had consistently pushed for an end to the confrontation. However, only the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church could serve as the basis for ending the conflict. Even so, forces in Ukrainian society sought to discriminate against the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church for no other reason than its traditional link to the Moscow Patriarchate. Bills had been drafted by radicals that would allow for interference in the internal affairs of parishes and dioceses, further aggravating the religious divide in Ukraine. Such legislative attempts to turn that Church and its members into an instrument of internal political conflict were deplorable.

The Interreligious Council of Russia, which gathered together representatives of a number of religious denominations, including Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Jewish leaders, regularly expressed common moral positions on issues of State and social development. Together, they arrived at a moral consensus on social matters that had a moral dimension and transmitted their views to the Russian parliament. They had, for example, secured the adoption of a law on gambling with the aim of limiting its adverse effects on society. For several years, the Russian Orthodox Church had held annual Christmas meetings with Russian parliamentarians to discuss important issues. It had become more than a mere tradition: the meetings provided the momentum to search for the moral consensus that underpinned law-making. In that light, he called on parliamentarians to pursue their legislative functions while bearing in mind that the ultimate goal was for the ideals of good, justice and love in society to triumph. There was a great responsibility not only for the destiny of their own peoples but of humankind as a whole.

The PRESIDENT thanked His Holiness for his presentation and invited speakers from the floor to resume the General Debate.

Mr. W. SIMINA (Federated States of Micronesia), resuming the debate, said that, when the Cold War had ended just 25 years previously, the world had breathed a sigh of relief: the prospect of nuclear annihilation had receded. A new era of world peace, cooperation, understanding and prosperity had dawned, or so it seemed. The then newly independent Federated States of Micronesia had taken its first steps on the international stage during that, albeit short-lived, period of optimism. The attacks of 11 September 2001, however, had ushered in a new era characterized by massive population movements and ethnic violence on an unimaginable scale. Worst of all, the spectre of nuclear annihilation had once again raised its ugly head. Although it was not involved in the dispute, his country was in the line of nuclear fire since it surrounded the island of Guam. It was thus vital that the issue of nuclear testing, and the risk it posed to peace and international security, remained on the global agenda. The IPU must, he added, be applauded for taking action on the situation of the Rohingya, who were being persecuted for their ethnicity and religion. Their horrific treatment was unacceptable in a supposedly modern and civilized world.

The threat of climate change, however, hung over everything, like the sword of Damocles. Hurricanes had devastated many countries, including the Caribbean island nations. Earthquakes had struck; fires had raged. It was as though Mother Nature was angry at what humans had done to the planet. While there were those who would still deny its existence, climate change required collective action. His country, although poor, had reached out in solidarity across the oceans. It had provided funding to help with disaster recovery in Cuba, Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda and even the United States. He hoped that those funds would reach Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Given the current state of the world, IPU Member Parliaments must recommit to the Organization's

founding principles: the promotion of democracy and peaceful resolution. Any and all conflicts could be solved: all that was needed was the will to enter into dialogue, without resorting to insults, name-calling or oversimplification on Twitter or other social media.

Ms. M. LOHELA (Finland) said that great richness and opportunity lay in the cultural diversity of people, goods and ideas, which increasingly criss-crossed national boundaries. International cooperation was crucial in the face of the new global challenges: climate change, migration flows and population growth could not be restrained by physical borders. It was important for persons of all cultures to come together in harmony and mutual respect. While their values and ideals were different, they all shared a common humanity. Nevertheless, the difficulties of intercultural dialogue had been made painfully clear: several violent attacks had revealed the sad tale of how religion and culture had been subverted to incite radicalization, extremism and terror. As parliamentarians, they must preserve respect for universal human rights, the rule of law, democracy, freedom of speech and equal opportunities. They must not let violent extremists take their way of life hostage.

Mediation was paramount to ensuring long-term peace and stability. Finland had actively promoted inter-faith dialogue as a means of mediation and mutual understanding. Religion should be used to build bridges, not destroy them. However, inter-faith dialogue could only be achieved through inclusiveness, a fundamental pillar of democracy, human rights, pluralism, tolerance and the rule of law. Women had a crucial role to play in that regard, as did youth and older persons. Indeed, no one should be deprived of the right to participate in decisions that affected them. Education was crucial, since it allowed for the development of critical thinking and innovation. It likewise led to increased opportunities and progress, both for individuals and wider society. Providing education to all, without discrimination, created active and skilled citizens, ready to contribute to society. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to facilitate the respectful exchange of diverse views. In that regard, parties across the political spectrum had been united in the Finnish Parliament in their condemnation of hate speech and racism. In today's world, the democratic, pluralistic form of governance faced formidable challenges. As politicians, she added, citing the poet Alberto Moravia, they could be content with the possible and, through mutual understanding and dialogue, find perfection in it too.

Mr. Y. RETA (Ethiopia) said that today's world was interconnected through myriad cultures and faiths. Properly managed, cultural diversity could lead to peace, security and prosperity; however, the opposite was true if diversity was not fully appreciated or used for the well-being of society. The current debate represented a conscious attempt to build understanding, respect, harmony and friendship between religious communities and ethnicities. Inter-faith dialogue should focus on what unites – rather than what divides – people of different faiths and ethnicities in order to overcome stereotypes and historical grievances. To achieve world peace, there must first be peace among religions and ethnicities, which required dialogue.

Ethiopia was a mosaic of nationalities, each with its own distinctive culture and religion. Tolerance and respect for different cultures, ethnicities and faiths had been crucial to the country's survival and unity. Its different ethnic groups had forged strong ties, enabling them to coexist peacefully and defend their country. Nurturing mutual understanding and respect for people of different cultures and faiths had been a long-standing tradition. In fact, it was usual for Christians to build mosques and Muslims to build churches. Inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue were essential for achieving respect for diversity and fostering sustainable peace. In that spirit, his Parliament had arranged inter-faith and inter-ethnic forums for dialogue and cultural exchange. Education was fundamental for strengthening peaceful ethnic and religious relations, for which reason civic and ethical education were compulsory in schools. Lastly, intercultural and interreligious dialogue forums had been held to foster harmony between ethnic and religious minorities and, thus, combat extremism and terrorism.

Mr. M. ALGHANIM (Kuwait) said that, despite all its progress, humankind's basest, most violent instincts were on full display in some parts of the world. The United Nations and the international community were sitting idly by as the Rohingya were being massacred for no other reason than for their otherness, their religion and their culture. There were similarities with the situation in Palestine: the land of occupation, the land of the killers and the killed, an open wound on the Earth's surface. The Other had been occupied, its existence negated, annihilated and uprooted. Such flagrant racial discrimination must be stopped. As custodians of peace and security, they must not stay silent in the face of such crimes.

Action should be taken against any Member Parliament that did not uphold basic human rights principles and the values of the Organization. They must not stand by while people were being raped, their human rights violated and their lands occupied. In today's technological world, the Israeli

occupying forces were building concrete walls to separate two peoples. In violation of a United Nations Security Council resolution adopted the previous year, the Israeli Knesset had enacted a law to build 16 more settlements. As parliamentarians, they must influence the Member Parliament to uphold the principles of protecting and respecting human rights and dignity; otherwise, the reputation of the Organization would be tarnished.

Mr. B.A. Saraki (Nigeria), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. P.H. KATJAVIVI (Namibia) said that the theme of the General Debate should be understood in the current global context, marked as it was by intolerance and conflict. In that light, national parliaments must play an active role in ensuring mutual respect for cultural pluralism. The Constitution of Namibia aimed to eliminate discrimination, which had been used by the colonial oppressors to suppress its people. After emerging from colonial domination and racial and ethnic apartheid, his country had placed an emphasis on protecting fundamental human rights and freedoms, forging unity in diversity and accepting diversity as a strength. The quest for self-determination had been founded on the principles of justice, dignity and freedom. Post-independence, those ideals were cultivated through a strong commitment to democracy.

Namibia had 12 distinct communities whose languages were taught in schools, alongside English, the official language. The customs and traditional heritage of the various ethnic groups had been preserved and valued. Traditional authorities and the parliament had worked together to ensure that customary laws were aligned with the Constitution and promoted inclusiveness. Religious denominations often came together to promote harmony and national reconciliation. It was in their power as parliamentarians to build inclusive institutions and policies and ensure that democracy – both at home and abroad – was firmly grounded. In that light, Namibia was committed to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and supported the self-determination of still-occupied countries, such as in Western Sahara. The suffering of the Palestinian people, too, must not be forgotten.

Mr. M.R. RABBANI (Pakistan) said that the world's religions taught and preached peaceful coexistence. In his view, however, cultural pluralism and peace were not necessarily linked to inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue. Islam's doctrine was based on love, brotherhood, compassion, tolerance and peaceful coexistence; and yet, Islam was in the eye of the current storm. One only had to look to history to see how Muslims had protected minorities and been magnanimous in both victory and defeat. Contrary to Western opinion, Muslims were not barbarians: they had an impressive record of displaying virtue and moral goodness and had contributed greatly to culture and civilization. The spread of Islam had upset the status quo in Europe and in Asia. Before the Industrial Revolution, Islam had challenged the imperial powers of the East and the West. In the sixteenth century, it had inspired the same hysterics in the West as Communism had done in the twentieth century.

Today's conflicts were motivated by interests, spheres of influence or control of natural resources. The wave of colonialism had fragmented cultures and ruptured traditions. It begged the question: which faith or ethnicity was it that had caused the crisis in the Sinai desert, captured the Golan Heights, created the Palestine issue and kept Kashmir as an unfinished agenda of partition? Western imperialism had sought to impose itself on the developing world and create conflict for spheres of influence. Their conflicts had robbed children of their futures. They talked of culture, ethnicity and dialogue: the culture of those children was now the refugee camp; their ethnicity was nomadic; their only language was the daily fight for survival. In the Palestinian refugee camps, children longed for their fathers or brothers, who were held captive by the Israeli forces. In Kashmir, children had been blinded by pellet guns. While United Nations Resolutions on Palestine and Kashmir were being disregarded, United Nations sanctions had been taken against Iraq and other Arab countries. On what basis could there be dialogue?

Mr. B. SCOTLAND (Guyana) said that, as a new IPU Member Parliament, he wished to introduce his country to the Assembly. Guyana was surrounded by Suriname to the East, Venezuela to the West and Brazil to the South, while the Atlantic Ocean lapped its northern extremities. His country of 770,000 inhabitants was known as the land of six peoples, although, over the years, a seventh group had emerged. The theme of the debate was therefore apposite, since the presence of diverse ethnicities provided both challenges and opportunities for creating structures that contributed to promoting harmonious relations and peaceful coexistence.

Ms. A. BROEKERS-KNOL (Netherlands) said that it seemed apt to have such a debate in the city founded by Peter the Great, a man who had been much interested in foreign countries and cultures. In his quest to modernize the Russian Empire, he had travelled abroad to learn about

developments in other countries, including, in 1697, the then Republic of the United Netherlands. He had been fascinated by the creative, innovative, wealthy and peaceful city of Amsterdam. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in an era of religious conflict and hatred, the Republic of the United Netherlands had become a safe haven for people of different faiths and backgrounds. One could say that interfaith tolerance and dialogue had enabled the Republic to flourish in peace.

When different cultures and religions met and interacted on the basis of mutual respect and understanding, new horizons could be reached, accomplishments achieved and peace attained. Technology and social networks had made the world smaller, but there were drawbacks. Although a means of communication, social media could hinder true dialogue, which was essential for mutual understanding. Dialogue involved an exchange of opinions, but misinformation and a lack of direct communication could cause problems and differences to spiral out of control. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to promote dialogue and encourage personal contact to build trust, a key aspect of cultural pluralism and peace. Trust was also critical for the enjoyment of human rights and democratic principles, such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the freedom to voice opposing views without fear of arrest. In that spirit, she endorsed the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights' draft resolution on diversity and hoped that it would contribute to the full recognition of religious freedoms, cultural diversity and ethnic identity, while upholding democracy and human rights.

Mr. H. SABBAGH (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, throughout history, his country had been a model of coexistence, tolerance and openness. The challenges and dangers that threatened cultural diversity were linked to the extremism and terrorism sweeping the region and the world. The Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq were under threat from Takfiri terrorism, which was based on extremist ideology that advocated death and destruction and was funded by other countries. This was a litmus test for the international community. The relevant United Nations resolutions must be applied, in particular Security Council resolutions Nos. 2253 (2015), on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida Sanction List, and 2254 (2015), on the road map for peace in the Syrian Arab Republic. Parliamentarians must confront the challenges that endangered their people. They must fight the causes, not the consequences. Together, they must spread love, tolerance and peace to secure the well-being and prosperity of their respective countries.

His country's priorities included protecting cultural diversity and promoting citizenship and equality. The world must counter threats to diversity and confront States who funded extremist ideologies and gave arms to terrorist assassins who killed along religious and ethnic lines. His country's cultural heritage had not escaped the brutality; religious and archaeological sites had been destroyed and looted. In the midst of the war being waged against it, a new Constitution had been approved by public referendum and parliamentary and presidential elections had been held and independently observed. Thanks to its leadership and the cooperation of its friends and allies, notably the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, his country had tackled the dangerous organizations attempting to undermine the State, its institutions and its society. It was now on the road to defeating terrorism and proclaiming victory for the civilized world. Syrian blood had been shed in defence not only of the Syrian Arab Republic but also of the countries and peoples of the world.

Mr. R. MSOWOYA (Malawi) said that social, political and economic differences would always exist owing to cultural and religious diversity. Dialogue between different religions and cultures was the only path to peaceful coexistence. African intellectuals had long championed a sense of identity that spanned cultures and promoted inter-ethnic and intercultural dialogue. African communities had learned to coexist peacefully, for all their different cultures, faiths and ethnic groups. Despite being home to at least 10 different ethnic groups and four different religions, Malawians had embraced internal and external dialogue, enabling them to live in peaceful coexistence since the country's independence. In Malawi, inter-faith and intercultural dialogue were ways to eliminate injustice, reduce moral decay and promote societal values. Such dialogue had also helped his country to move from a single-party system to the current multi-party system of government without serious fighting.

Some of today's conflicts were rooted in cultural and religious misunderstandings or misinformation, allowing people, organizations and even nations to exploit and manipulate opinion for their own selfish ends. Parliamentarians had a duty to sensitize their constituents to the dangers of ignoring other cultures and religions. He called upon the Assembly to reaffirm its commitment to peace by strengthening inter-faith and intercultural dialogue for world peace and socioeconomic development. He proposed that the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security should draft strategies to enhance inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue ahead of the 138th IPU assembly.

Mr. A. PIMENTEL III (Philippines) said that his country faced ethnic -diversity problems, which limited its attainment of peace and development. The Philippines was made up of more than 7,000 islands, 100 languages and 100 different ethnic and tribal affiliations. Such diversity could be

the source of both strength and division. In some parts of the country, ethnic groups were characterized not only by their different languages but also by their religious customs and traditions. Some Filipinos felt marginalized or exploited, which had led to violent uprisings. The Government had use force to successfully quell the violence; however, force could only still the body, not the mind or the soul. While the use of force could maintain law and order, it could not establish the peace and harmony needed for progress and development.

A recent uprising by armed groups wishing to affiliate with ISIL had been crushed by the Government. However, as with any war or violent incident, there had been victims. Hundreds of people had lost their lives, hundreds of thousands had been uprooted from their homes. The historic city of Marawi now lay in ruins. The Philippine Government would not allow the cycle of violence to continue. It was determined to address the root causes of the conflicts, grievances and injustices in Philippine society. The Christian Hispanicized majority must realize that effective inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue with minority and indigenous groups would pave the way to a peaceful, harmonious and progressive society. The IPU must take the lead in efforts to respect cultural and religious diversity. As parliamentarians, they must: accept each other as brothers and sisters, no matter their diversities and differences; agree on the core values of peace, equality and solidarity; and recognize that parliaments could bridge religious and ethnic divides by finding common ground.

Mr. L. KENGO WA DONDO (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that his country was home to 400 ethnic groups, the same number of cultural and linguistic expressions and the intermingling of populations. In that light, the Democratic Republic of the Congo had ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The languages and cultures shared with neighbouring countries along its nine borders were the basis for political, economic, social and cultural cooperation. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was a secular State and had never experienced religious war. All faiths coexisted and sometimes even worshipped together. Such unity had strengthened patriotism among the Congolese and bolstered their resistance to Balkanisation. To further strengthen national cohesion, his country's electoral law had been based on proportional representation. All parliamentary terms of office had now expired. Under the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement of 31 December 2016, new elections were due to be held, under the aegis of the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Government and the parliament. The use of dialogue to resolve conflict remained the best way to achieve lasting peace.

Ms. E. MADZONGWE (Zimbabwe) said that now, more than ever before, the world was divided into regimented blocs of religion, ethnicity and race that had been used to advance negative agendas, eroding global development, peace and security. At a time of supposed improved democratic systems of governance, cultural and religious tolerance and respect for minority rights, there had been crimes against humanity and systematic violence. Diversity was as old as humanity itself. Cultural diversity was the expression of developmental change over time. Minority groups relied on tolerance and respect for fundamental freedoms and deserved legal protection. The promotion of cultural pluralism and inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue in communities was of paramount importance. Indeed, pluralism and multicultural dialogue should begin at the grass-roots level by increasing community awareness and creating developmental partnerships that transcended sociocultural identity. Building political power on electoral enclaves based along tribal, ethnic or religious lines undermined efforts to promote cultural, inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue

As parliamentarians, they must ensure access to basic services for all society's diverse groups. Budgets and the public finances must be scrutinized to ensure that resources were distributed equitably and that minority groups could participate in economic and public life. Parliaments must provide monitoring and oversight of the executive's actions towards minority, religious and ethnic groups and ensure that executive powers and security enforcement initiatives were not abused. In Zimbabwe, Christian, Muslim and traditional communities maintained continuous dialogue to promote religious coexistence and tolerance. As a young democracy, still emerging from colonial bondage, the Zimbabwean Government had established the requisite institutions for a stable society. A national peace and reconciliation commission had also been set up, paving the way for peace and socioeconomic development.

Mr. P. NYABENDA (Burundi), providing an overview of the fundamental human rights principles enshrined in his country's Constitution, said that, in line with the 2012 IPU Quebec City Declaration, on citizenship, identity and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalized world, Burundi championed all these, as well as ethnic, racial and religious diversity. Almost all Burundians spoke the same language, Kirundi, and shared the same culture, which helped to foster social peace. In such harmony, there was diversity: three ethnic groups – the Hutu, Tutsi and Twa peoples – coexisted peacefully and were recognized by the Constitution, as were religious minorities. Burundians supported humanism while promoting mutual respect, mutual assistance and solidarity on the basis of

honour, dignity and the solemn word. Although those values had been severely tested in the past and in recent times, they were instilled in Burundian children from an early age. Prior to the arrival of the colonial settlers and missionaries, Burundians had believed in a single God. Now, they welcomed all religious confessions and preached peaceful coexistence, fraternity and national unity. Burundi had never had to experience religious conflict or radicalization. An interreligious council fostered cooperation between Catholic, Islam and Protestant leaders, who met to discuss ways to inspire tolerance and mutual respect among their followers.

Following decades of violent conflict and bloodshed, the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi had been negotiated and recognized the fundamentally political nature and ethnic dimensions of the conflict. Those ethnic dimensions had been addressed in the Constitution, which had established ethnic and gender political quotas. Parliamentarians must repeal discriminatory laws, adopt legislation prohibiting hate speech and foster interreligious and inter-ethnic dialogue. Speaking on behalf of the Burundian Parliament, he thanked the African Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council and representatives of certain South American and Asian countries for having supported a resolution calling for international technical assistance in Burundi.

Ms. J. LUVENI (Fiji) said that her Parliament was committed to: fostering inclusive legal, regulatory and policy frameworks; ensuring that all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, culture or religion, enjoyed equal rights and equal access to basic services; and to tackling the root causes of past political instability, with a focus on potentially divisive statements. Fiji was a multicultural, multi-faith nation. Inter-ethnic dialogue and understanding began at an early age with the compulsory teaching of indigenous and Hindi languages in primary schools. Contemporary traditional dances embodied efforts to promote intercultural coexistence through the fusion of culture and costume while protecting and preserving traditions and cultural diversity.

Religion and cultural pluralism were recognized as important elements of peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that spirit, an organization of religious groups had met to build bridges, foster religious understanding and promote dialogue; an inter-faith summit had been held to explore how communities and religious leaders could work together on the SDGs; and a civil-society initiative had united people from across ethnic, social and political divides to discuss national development issues. A traditional tool for dialogue, known as *talanoa*, was used by traditional and political leaders to engage with the public on culturally sensitive issues. *Talanoa* involved creating an inclusive and transparent process to facilitate informal discussions and information-sharing with a view to expediting decision-making. Having been created by the country's forefathers as a means of settling disputes and understanding other points of view, the approach was to be used at the November 2017 Bonn Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23), to be presided over by the Fijian Government.

Mr. J. NDUGAI (United Republic of Tanzania), citing former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, said that although there were many different religions, languages and colours of skin, everyone belonged to one human race. The United Republic of Tanzania was a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country and home to more than 120 ethnic tribes united by a common language. Despite its cultural diversity, it had experienced peace and tranquillity since its independence in 1961. Fortunately, his country had been spared the wave of religious tensions and conflicts that had so ravaged other States, thanks to a general atmosphere of religious tolerance and understanding. Platforms for dialogue had been set up to address any problems or misunderstandings. Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue required political will and concrete policies supported by legislation and strong institutions. At the same time, parliamentarians should stay attentive to the needs of society's most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups by promoting inclusive economic growth.

Mr. C. CASSAMA (Guinea-Bissau) said that, together, they faced the challenge of constructing a new world order based on cultural, ethnic and religious pluralism through genuine dialogue. They must cast off the remnants of an ideological past that had subtly tried to eliminate traditional cultures and rise above present attempts to undermine world peace and stability. Parliaments must provide legislative solutions and mechanisms to combat past and present scourges that aimed to make the world a place of violence, division, segregation, exclusion and hatred.

Guinea-Bissau was a sociocultural and ethno-religious mosaic of different peoples, ethnicities, cultures and religions. Intercultural and inter-faith dialogue had led to the country's very existence, as its various peoples and ethnic groups had pooled their resources to secure its emancipation. Despite current constraints, that spirit remained alive and well. Through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, they could foster religious freedom and tolerance, pave the way to lasting peace and contribute to fairer, more equitable societies. Parliamentarians had an individual and collective responsibility to establish a permanent debate aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of ethno-religious

discrimination and intolerance. The new paradigms of dialogue and cooperation between States could not only resolve conflicts but also strengthen nations and their peoples. He was convinced that, through dialogue and cooperation between States, United Nations Security Council resolutions Nos. 1862 (2009), on the border dispute between Eritrea and Djibouti, and 1907 (2009), concerning Somalia and Eritrea, could be swiftly observed.

Mr. M.A. OQUAYE (Ghana) said that, in Africa, the call for self-emancipation and political independence had been answered, but the struggle was not yet over. It manifested itself in the quest for, among other goals, the right to improve electoral systems, develop youth and enable women to participate in political and public life. Certain elements of good governance still remained to be achieved, including political pluralism and term limits. The practice by some presidents of amending their constitution to allow them to continue ruling was disgraceful. However, the attainment of economic rights, which underpinned all other rights in Africa, was beyond Africans' control. Poverty, misery and disease continued to blight the lives of Africans and undermined their fundamental human and political rights. Africa was constrained by World Trade Organization (WTO) arrangements that governed the economic order and favoured developed countries. As a result, African nations were restricted to producing raw materials while more developed nations made the finished product, effectively stunting African economic development and limiting the enjoyment of their human rights. No industry in the developed world had grown without protective mechanisms. He called for a new economic order that would correct the imbalances inherent in the current WTO arrangements, which were grossly unfair: they killed African industry; led to poverty, which, in turn, threatened all other rights; and jeopardized democratic development. It was a vicious cycle that would only bite deeper unless action was taken.

Mr. I. AHMED OMER (Sudan) said that cultural pluralism had made a positive and important contribution to society. By respecting and recognizing religious, ethnic and cultural pluralism, diversity in all its forms could become a source of strength, opening the way to peaceful coexistence. Inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue meant finding common ground, understanding one another's differences and overcoming conflict through dialogue, humility, reasoned logic and knowledge. Failure to act now would consign future generations to an ongoing cycle of conflict and compound ethnic and religious differences. The dissemination of fake news and disinformation would lead to mutual destruction.

Cultural, ethnic and religious issues epitomized the need to reconcile two seemingly opposing forces: continuity and change. While the essence of culture, ethnicity and religion was unalterable, other aspects were constantly evolving. Parliamentarians had a moral duty and obligation to ensure world peace and national stability, which was why dialogue was so vital. In Sudan, a two-year process of national dialogue had been established; solutions for building stability and peace had been found; and a National Dialogue Document had been created. Former armed combatants were now integrated into a national unity government, a feat that had been achieved through dialogue.

Mr. N. TEP (Cambodia), reaffirming his country's commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, said that extremism and discrimination on the grounds of religion, ethnicity, culture, language and race were at the root of many of the world's tensions, conflicts and civil wars. Globalization trends and scientific and technological advancements had outpaced the progress of humankind, which was still living under a cloud of violence fuelled by extremism, radicalization, hatred, xenophobia and exclusiveness. In a nation that had been previously decimated by genocide and civil war, the Parliament of Cambodia supported government measures that promoted respect for pluralism and fostered social inclusiveness, paving the way towards social stability, equality, peace and national reconciliation.

Among its priorities, the Cambodian Parliament was committed to: promoting political, economic and sociocultural rights; developing a culture of dialogue, exchange and participation; fostering mutual cooperation, unity and solidarity; and preventing political statements that incited discrimination, xenophobia and extremism. Action was also being taken to thwart interference in the country's internal affairs. Hostile agents were using the media, social networks or forums to introduce negative ideologies, including colour revolutions, which distorted the true situation in Cambodia. Their aim was to weaken Cambodia and disrupt its progress by creating internal political conflict and fomenting mistrust between citizens and among different ethnic groups.

Mr. M. CHARIF (Comoros) said that manifestations of cultural and religious intolerance today blighted almost every continent. Terrorism inspired by Islamic jihadists had destroyed peace and stability in many places around the world. Migration flows from the southern to the northern hemisphere had given rise to intolerance in places previously known for their democratic and secular values. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict had taken a worrying turn that threatened peace. As parliamentarians, they had a duty to promote cultural and religious pluralism and cooperation between peoples.

In the Comoros, although Islam was the predominant religion, State institutions were governed by the Constitution, which promoted secularism. His Government had committed to the universal principles of democracy and peace, as enshrined in international and regional conventions, and had ratified the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. Individuals were free to practice other faiths or follow other Islamic schools of thought: doing so was no threat to national cohesion. Indeed, the Parliament was committed to pushing for lasting peace and stability.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Sitting of Monday, 16 October (Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.30 p.m., with Ms. J. Luveni (Fiji), Vice-President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*

Resumption of the debate

Ms. S. ERRANTE (France) expressed support for the Somali people following the previous day's attack in Mogadishu, saying that the fight against terrorism was constant. While it was gratifying that the French National Assembly included a high proportion of women, the voter turnout in the recent elections had been so low that parliamentary working groups had been established to reflect on how to inject meaning into politics and involve citizens in the legislative process. Another priority was education, which should teach notions about justice, tolerance, the rule of law and respect for values from an early age for the sake of nation-building, peaceful coexistence and counteracting the false information prolific on social networks. People no longer knew where the truth lay among the many existing definitions of democracy and peace. It was therefore important for them to acquire a critical sense, curiosity and confidence through an awareness of others and their differences.

The fight against terrorism was perhaps the most crucial challenge of all. The sowing of terror in order to divide and weaken democracies must be countered on a daily basis. Although the principles of human rights, freedom of conscience and the separation of church and State were principles long ago declared in France, its secularism was under threat, primarily owing to ignorance. Under French law, however, all citizens were equal in terms of their beliefs and faith and secularism was a common principle enabling everyone to develop freely while respecting others. All ethnic and religious conflicts must be ended in order to fight terrorism and a shared future must be built through parliamentary democracy. The difficulty of that mission would only enhance its success.

Mr. R. MARTINEZ HUELMO (Uruguay) said that cultural pluralism was key to social peace, a goal that the IPU and its Members must constantly strive to promote. Together with the separation of church and State, freedom of worship was enshrined in his country's Constitution and was, moreover, a right that all countries should seek to protect. Uruguay had a law in place to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination, which were criminal offences and scourges to be eliminated in the national interest. The law reflected the sentiments and convictions of the Uruguayan people and also stemmed from the country's ratification of related international conventions and treaties. Under that law, a commission against racism had been established to conduct a national assessment and propose any legal amendments or new provisions required on the basis of its findings.

In its determination to protect human rights, the Uruguayan Parliament had also worked to strengthen the country's education system and ensure that it promoted pluralism, dialogue, tolerance and respect for other faiths, ethnicities and cultures. Those principles were moreover pursued through campaigns for raising awareness of social, cultural and religious diversity. By remaining conscious of the sensitivity of such issues, parliamentarians could help to preserve peace and win trust in their commitment to fighting for justice and equality. The IPU demonstrated exemplary respect for difference and its Members mirrored the diversity of humanity with all its strengths and weaknesses, as well as the hope for a future of peace and tolerance.

Mr. S. SONODA (Japan) said that parliamentarians must work to create an enabling environment for meaningful dialogue, which played a vital role in preventing and resolving conflicts, fostering mutual trust and building peace and security. In North-East Asia, that environment was regrettably impeded by various obstacles, most notably the threat to regional and indeed international peace and security posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programmes of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Despite calls from the international community for that country to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions and abandon those programmes, it persisted with its nuclear testing and ballistic missile launches.

For Japan, the only country to have experienced atomic bombings, the situation was intolerable, and the more so in that all efforts at dialogue had simply been exploited by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to buy time for advancing its programmes. The authorities in that country, moreover, had consistently made false claims about the fate of the Japanese nationals it had abducted, which was a serious issue that compromised the sovereignty of Japan and the safety of its citizens. It also

entailed human rights violations of concern to the international community, which Japan therefore called upon to support its demands for the return of surviving abductees. He likewise appealed to parliamentarians to urge their own Governments to join in solidarity with Japan in condemning the provocative actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and demanding its full implementation of the related Security Council resolutions as the way to meaningful dialogue for resolving the situation in an atmosphere of calm and tranquillity.

Mr. S. POPOV (President of the General Assembly, Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy) said he hoped that that the current debate would serve the cause of peace in such turbulent times of instability, economic inequality, terrorism and expansion. Shortly due to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the 27-member Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO) had learned much from the IPU about concerted efforts to resolve problems by taking on board different views and positions. In the Middle East, many Christians had been killed, many had sought refuge elsewhere, many religious shrines had been destroyed and many individuals, including priests, had been abducted. Military force was not the way to resolve conflict, however. In seeking solutions to common challenges, there was no alternative to dialogue and cooperation. He invited the IPU to participate in an international conference on cooperation between Muslims and Christians, to be held in Lebanon in 2018, and drew attention to the impending International Day for Tolerance in November 2017. Tolerance must nonetheless begin at home through learning about the problems of minorities and resolving conflicts by way of dialogue and negotiation.

Ms. D. PASCAL ALLENDE (Chile) said that IPU Assemblies provided the ideal opportunity for parliamentarians from around the globe to join forces in promoting dialogue and seeking common understanding through a democratic process. Strengthening trust, social inclusiveness and respect for diversity and difference was a prerequisite for progress, prosperity and the enjoyment of human rights by all. Globalization had furthermore underscored the importance of defending human rights and condemning all discrimination. Indeed, the Quebec City Declaration on citizenship, identity and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalized world, adopted at the IPU Assembly in 2012, remained ever valid in 2017 as a road map for increasing social harmony and peaceful coexistence through respect for difference and the constructive exchange of good practices. Inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue would build trust in diversity to guarantee peace within and among countries, while respect for others should guide the work of parliamentarians in seeking to understand the religious, cultural and other contexts in which the seeds of conflict were sown.

Ethnic persecution and xenophobia were persistent problems that could be overcome by emphasizing human rights and fundamental freedoms and promoting dialogue. Inter-faith dialogue in Chile had helped its parliamentarians to develop legislation and fill existing gaps in the efforts to fight discrimination and build peaceful coexistence. It was by identifying good practices through discussion forums such as the IPU that a culture of positive dialogue would be developed to promote diversity and thereby enrich humanity.

Mr. M. SARAVANAN (Malaysia) said that Malaysia was a multicultural and multilingual society in which ethnic groups lived peacefully together in an atmosphere of tolerance, compromise and mutual respect that formed the basis for national integration. The principle of equality and non-discrimination laid down in the Constitution applied to all Malaysians, regardless of race or religion, and fostered that integration. Other measures taken to build a Malaysian identity among ethnic communities included the establishment of various agencies and institutions tasked with preserving, enhancing and strengthening unity and promoting inter-faith harmony. Indeed, it was thanks to its national economic, education and transformation plans that Malaysia was a peaceful, prosperous and stable nation also playing its part in the international arena.

The significant role of parliamentarians in the promotion of cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue called for consistent engagement and collaboration with all sectors of society in addressing racism and xenophobia. By so doing, they could more easily identify practical solutions for countering the spread of ideologies breeding hate and violence. Parliamentarians must also work to maintain peace, harmony, integrity and sustainable economic growth by promoting universal values based on shared responsibility, as well as champion efforts to enhance cultural and religious literacy. Malaysia recognized the benefits to be further gained in promoting cultural diversity by tapping into the strengths of all IPU Members. In sum, differences must be embraced and respected through unity in diversity.

Mr. H. WENINGER (Austria) said that added to the outward manifestations of cultural differences worldwide were the significant variations in social organization, concepts of morality and interaction with the environment. Cultural pluralism and diversity enabled individuals to learn from one another, share different perspectives and coexist in mutual understanding and respect. Integration,

tolerance and moral courage were fundamental to a pluralistic society. Austrian integration policies for migrants and asylum-seekers therefore centred on language acquisition, employment, and understanding of the rule of law and national values. With tolerance and respect for ethnic, linguistic and religious groups forming an important aspect of peaceful coexistence, national minorities were protected from discrimination and accorded special rights under the Austrian Constitution and other laws. The use of respectful language was a factor in de-escalating situations and helping to prevent conflict. As to moral courage, it was vital to speaking out against all discrimination and intolerance, the more so in view of the spread of hatred and extremism through modern communication tools.

To counter such tendencies, parliamentarians must act as role models by themselves using respectful language and speaking out against intolerance and hate when communicating in parliamentary debates or at public events and when interacting with citizens. For its part, the Austrian Parliament had drawn inspiration from the No Hate Speech Movement campaign of the Council of Europe to ensure that its Democracy Workshop for young people included a focus on combating hate speech on the Internet. All parliamentarians must willingly work for solidarity and strive for agreement in every action in order to restore confidence in politics.

Mr. P. VAN DEN DRIESSCHE (Belgium) said it was painfully ironic that a second annexation of Crimea had made it unthinkable for an IPU Member, namely Ukraine, to attend the current Assembly. Indeed, it was regrettable that the Twelve Plus Group's strong statement of condemnation at the 132nd Assembly in 2015 concerning the situation in Ukraine remained as valid as ever, with the prospects of a peaceful settlement in an internationally recognized setting possibly even dimmer. Judging by the Russian President's plea during his speech at the inaugural ceremony for increased mutual respect and non-interference in the affairs of States, even the best did not always practise what they preached.

The staunchest defenders of plurality were often less keen on allowing pluralism and critical questioning within their own systems. Religious or ideological convictions, cultural values and traditions were no excuse for the violation of basic and universally recognized human rights, as defined in international law, or for the interpretation of those rights in an idiosyncratic manner. He therefore looked forward to acceptance of his delegation's proposal that the Standing Committee on Human Rights and Democracy should, at its next sitting in Geneva, hold a panel discussion on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, who were human beings and should never be subjected to discrimination. Lastly, religion must not become an excuse for the obscurantism evidenced in the disquieting and increasing tendency to question solid scientific knowledge on the basis of religious or other beliefs that long predated that knowledge and had not contributed to it. He respected all religions but also insisted on respect for the separation of State and religion.

Ms. J.-D'A. GAKUBA (Rwanda) said that Rwanda had not always been a divided nation. The notion of ethnic difference was alien to the culture but had been used to divide and rule. Ethnic discrimination had thus become institutionalized and the extermination of the Tutsi ethnic group had thus become the aim behind the genocide of 1994, following which the new leadership had chosen to pursue a democracy adapted to the country's socio-political history. With their key outcomes of reshaping the Rwandan national identity and consolidating a pluralistic democracy of consensus and integration, the lively debates held among political and other stakeholders had been instrumental in guiding the country's political management. The Rwandan Constitution furthermore prohibited discrimination on grounds of ethnic origin, tribe, clan or colour, and all citizens were encouraged to embrace a unified ethnic identity.

Lessons learned from the country's tarnished history had reinforced the new leadership's inclusive ideology, which had led to a fully integrative party system and the commitment of all socio-political forces to working for change through a multifaceted parliament and a government of national unity. Rwandan democracy was thus one of conciliation that broke with the past of ethnic exclusion and discrimination. To heal wounds and build national unity and identity, Rwanda had opted for a consociative arrangement based on proportional representation and the principle of power-sharing. The legal and institutional mechanisms in place for engaging all segments of society in political life through dialogue and consensus also further promoted national reconciliation and identity. Political pluralism thus provided a cohesive framework for the participation and integration of all Rwandans, enabling Rwanda to focus on attaining its deserved socio-economic position among middle-income countries.

Mr. D. MCGUINTY (Canada) said that, in 2017, the intermingling of cultures was the norm and societies were increasingly diverse, ethnically, linguistically and religiously. In Canada, hundreds of nationalities and religious affiliations had been added to its existing mosaic, producing a diversity reflected in its laws and political institutions, with the Constitution conferring equality on the members

of all communities. His own constituents had numerous ethnic origins, spoke many languages and represented various religious affiliations, while places of worship of different faiths existed side by side, in mutual respect. A multitude of inter-faith councils also worked to foster understanding, break down barriers, and overcome fear and bigotry predicated on ignorance and misunderstanding.

Recognizing diversity as a society's greatest strength, the Canadian Constitution provided that rights and freedoms must help to preserve and enhance its multicultural heritage. In addition to welcoming displaced and persecuted persons in need of protection and security, Canada recognized immigration as the life blood of the country and its economy. Nonetheless, it was not immune to racism, discrimination and religious intolerance. Indeed, its parliamentarians had a responsibility to work for true reconciliation with the country's First Peoples, who had faced abuse, exclusion and segregation over centuries. At the global level, the scourge of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression was a matter requiring full attention and Canada made no apology for its staunch support of LGBTI rights. Parliamentarians must denounce injustice and discrimination on behalf of their electorate and the voiceless, all of whom depended on them to ensure that no one was left behind in the relentless fight for equality.

Mr. B.A. SAKANDE (Burkina Faso) said that universal tolerance, a sense of community and an end to cultural and religious isolationism were urgent needs requiring shared solutions, particularly in view of the threats to global peace and security. All religions had peace and tolerance in common. Together with languages and cultures, they differentiated people in a positive manner, provided an opportunity for rethinking attitudes and behaviours, and built bridges of mutual understanding and acceptance. Indeed, an inclusive approach was the only way forward to strengthen and sustain peace irreversibly.

While progress born of cultural diversity and inclusion were a deterrent to violence, the current tendency towards isolationism was alarming. The many examples included the self-interested efforts to stifle measures against climate change; the feeble response to the call from the G5 Sahel countries for peacekeeping support; the failure to address the root causes of international migration flows; the unanswered pleas for a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and the deafening silence in response to the call for lifting of the embargo against Cuba. Mutual tolerance and acceptance of neighbours, together with the genuine will of States, would go far to resolving such issues. As representatives of diverse peoples and cultures and in view of their close contact with communities, parliamentarians were well placed to foster dialogue and tolerance, including by challenging and sensitizing governments and opinion leaders. In Burkina Faso, the results of various initiatives had demonstrated the significant and lasting impact that religious leaders could have in bringing communities closer together and promoting peace. It was the duty of parliamentarians worldwide to stimulate, facilitate and support that process.

Mr. B. BOUTTANAVONG (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that all races and ethnic groups were proud of their diverse cultures, traditions and beliefs representing heritages preserved and developed over centuries to enrich the world. Misunderstanding among races and religions was, however, a sensitive issue leading to cultural clashes, armed conflict and, in turn, displacement and humanitarian crises affecting social development and well-being. His country's relatively small population encompassed numerous multi-ethnic peoples who lived in peace and harmony, with none dominating another. Great importance was attached to promoting, preserving and developing the cultural heritage of those peoples and instilling pride in their cultural identity and uniqueness. All citizens were guaranteed equal rights, without exception, and any action liable to cause misunderstanding or social division was prohibited. The term "ethnic minority" was not in fact used, as all groups were seen as a fully equal and integral part of a unified nation.

The current legislature included women and members of numerous ethnic groups and, for their part, local parliaments facilitated wider public participation in the political and socio-economic life. As a result of the country's enabling policies, its multi-ethnic people enjoyed political stability, social security, unity and solidarity. Steady economic growth also continued and living conditions were gradually improving. The country was striving to integrate at the regional and global levels and to help in promoting peace and development in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He called on all parliaments to harness ethnic, religious and cultural diversity to encourage learning and sharing as driving forces for development cooperation for the benefit of all.

Mr. TONG CHUN AN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that discrimination and conflict arising from cultural, religious and other differences were becoming increasingly acute, as exemplified by what he described as the reckless threat by the United States President to destroy a sovereign State. The reaction of his country's leader to that threat had reflected the wrath of a peace-

loving people and their will never to compromise with injustice but to fight to the last against those daring to cast slurs on the dignity of their leadership and reveal schemes to inflict on them a nuclear holocaust. While their country was the world's most stable, they had always been treated by the United States as enemies to be obliterated for following their own ideological system in striving for a brighter future.

The United States conducted daily troop exercises in and around the Korean peninsula aimed at "regime change" and had imposed an extraordinarily vicious economic blockade on his country, insultingly branding its self-defence measures as a "provocation" and "global threat". Such actions had merely strengthened his country's resolve to speed up its nuclear programme, which had been prompted only by the United States threat against it. As to the comments of the delegate from Japan, they simply exposed the persistent Japanese habit of slandering others for its own gain. Japan should instead apologize for its past kidnappings of Korean women. His country would redouble its efforts to safeguard its sovereignty, dignity and right to exist, as well as seek to preserve regional peace and security, through equilibrium with the United States. He called on parliaments to stand in solidarity with his people by supporting them in that goal.

Mr. S. RYBAKOV (Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States) said that efforts for stability must be stepped up in the face of escalating global terrorism and inter-ethnic conflict. It was dialogue alone, however, that would promote peace and friendship among peoples. In that context, the role of inter-parliamentary platforms was growing, as evidenced by the activities of the IPU and his own organization comprising nine member parliaments. With its focus on the development of inter-parliamentary dialogue, his Inter-Parliamentary Assembly had accumulated substantial experience in parliamentary diplomacy, including with respect to conflict resolution and post-conflict situations. It had furthermore proposed an initiative to establish an International Day of Parliamentarism, to be celebrated on 30 June of each year, in honour of the first IPU Assembly in Paris in 1889. He urged support for the initiative.

Mr. N. SHAI (Israel), underlining the equal rights and freedoms guaranteed to all Israeli citizens, said that the definition of Israel as the Jewish homeland and State belied its tremendous diversity created through its absorption of millions of Jewish immigrants from many countries across the globe. Israel was also home to large Christian, Muslim and Druze populations, who were a firm part of the colourful social tapestry, and it had the region's only expanding Christian population. The country was indeed greatly enriched by its diversity, also reflected in its Parliament, and steadfastly committed to equality for all in its thriving democracy. All religious groups enjoyed autonomy and supervised their own sacred sites, while citizens from minority groups served in government and the armed forces, in addition to representing Israel in diplomacy and athletics.

Creating a shared society among so many groups demanded consistent work and dialogue, in which sphere Israel had been partially successful, albeit that the comprehensive peace it sought remained elusive. In wrestling with issues of identity, pluralism and peace, Israel had achieved appreciable progress towards the cultural pluralism envisioned by its founders. Acceptance of differences, however, was not always fashionable or permitted in challenging times and a threatening environment. Parliamentarians must speak out against intolerance, seek a meeting of minds and cultures to create societies that thrived because of – not despite – their diversity. Relevant laws must be enforced and any loopholes closed through new legislation in a genuine commitment to turn differences into a source of national pride. But efforts must not stop at national borders, for the road to peace would be shorter walked together.

Mr. G. DAUDZE (Latvia) said that, situated at a geographical and cultural crossroads, Latvia had long been home to many ethnic groups and had thus learned tolerance towards different cultures, lifestyles and beliefs while also preserving and shaping its own unique identity. Latvians accounted for under two thirds of the population, among whom intercultural dialogue was promoted through the strong tradition of foreign-language teaching in schools, which was an ideal means of promoting personal interaction and enhancing tolerance and understanding of other cultures and ethnicities. Cultural centres, too, had long played a role in providing language and cultural studies. Preservation and development of the local language, as in Latvia, was paramount to maintaining the unity and integrity of society and precluding barriers to inter-ethnic dialogue. In the wider context and in line with the European Union motto "Unite in diversity", Europeans had united for peace and prosperity while also being enriched by different cultures, traditions and languages.

In Latvia, church and State were separated under the Constitution and there were strong Catholic, Lutheran and Russian Orthodox traditions, which had developed an ecumenical dialogue. Latvians had furthermore remained tolerant towards other religions. Indeed, the equal rights of all inhabitants of Latvia, regardless of ethnicity or religion, formed a cornerstone of the Constitution and were firmly championed by Parliament. With ethnic and religious conflicts erupting throughout the

world, it was essential to promote respect for the universal values of humanity, human dignity, and equality. It was therefore the duty of parliamentarians to make best use of the IPU as a unique format providing a platform for broad dialogue and parliamentary diplomacy.

Mr. B. Scotland (Guyana), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. D. PAPANIMOU (Deputy Speaker, European Parliament) said that diversity and plurality were assets to be protected by parliamentarians through upholding dialogue and the rule of law, both nationally and globally, in the interest of stability. Unprecedented challenges were calling core values into question, while increasingly devastating warfare was leading to destabilization, redefinition of borders, and mass displacement. Xenophobia and calls for racial and religious discrimination had entered mainstream discourse, including in places of worship and parliaments, where self-declared prophets and irresponsible and populist politicians were fuelling nationalism and extremism with their aggressive rhetoric.

A human rights approach to religion and ethnicity was the only way to empower humans of diverse backgrounds, with dialogue an essential tool for defeating stereotyping and promoting tolerance. Indeed, dialogue must be intensified to find common ground, as must cooperation and inclusiveness to build the synergies and cooperation needed to synthesize different cultures, societies and religions. Concrete steps towards peace and understanding included protecting human rights and teaching young people the values of peaceful coexistence and dialogue. The European Union had recently appointed a Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief after pressure from the European Parliament, which continued to emphasize the role of inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue in promoting solidarity and tolerance. Given the importance of parliamentary cooperation to that end, the European Parliament actively worked in support of, inter alia, conflict prevention and dialogue facilitation. He called for more efforts to effect reconciliation and engage young people in the democratic process, citing in conclusion the human rights pledge taken by those joining the campaign *#standupforhumanrights*.

Mr. N. EVANS (United Kingdom) said that he very much enjoyed the opportunity provided by IPU Assemblies to speak with other parliamentarians, all of whom had much in common. The 10-member United Kingdom delegation was comparatively diverse in terms of gender, party affiliation, origin, sexual orientation and, no doubt, religion. Diversity was important. Born in a city where most people were Labour Party supporters, he had consequently come out as gay before coming out as a Conservative Party supporter. The United Kingdom had come far but still had further to go on gay rights. Talk about diversity, tolerance and understanding was pointless, however, as long as individuals continued to be subjected to imprisonment, physical assault and the like simply because they were gay. While the United Kingdom did not have all the answers, he was proud to belong to a parliament with the highest number of LGBTI parliamentarians in the world. He was also proud to have attended a recent Pride reception in Downing Street at which the United Kingdom Prime Minister had spoken of the LGBTI community's vital contribution to the country.

As to Brexit, the United Kingdom was leaving the European Union but not Europe, which had diversity in every one of its countries. Difference was to be celebrated and all those who enriched countries were welcomed. He hoped that those from the European Union who had settled in the United Kingdom would be welcome to stay after Brexit, and vice versa, and expressed thanks to the incomers who had served the United Kingdom so well over generations.

Mr. I. SANI (Niger) said that every civilization found expression through its ethnic groups, cultures and religions and that peoples had always sought to export their cultures or even to impose them on others. Recognition of the need for peaceful coexistence had, however, given rise to a degree of tolerance leading to the acceptance of cultural, religious and ethnic differences. Globalization and its consequences aside, it was imperative to cultivate and safeguard racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity so as to bring together communities, improve relations among States and with peoples, and find the common ground needed to cultivate tolerance and dialogue at the national, regional and international levels.

Niger was proud of its racial, ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity. Its Constitution guaranteed to all communities the freedom to use their own languages, while the law provided for the representation of all ethnic minorities in the country's legislative elections. The Government also included representatives of all national communities, who themselves maintained the joking relationships that undoubtedly relieved tensions. As to the Parliament, it worked tirelessly to combat the violence and extremism of Boko Haram and jihadist groups, including through awareness-raising and other activities for promoting national unity and cultivating tolerance. Nigerien parliamentarians

represented the nation, as opposed to their communities, and the country's institutional and socio-political arrangements ensured that inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue was a reality. The country's institutions therefore stood ready to engage in the promotion and development of such dialogue at the subregional and international levels.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand), noting that diversity was a fundamental pillar in the eradication of racism, xenophobia and racism, said that the world was growing smaller through technology and travel. Ethnicity, culture and religion continued to separate its people, however, and recent situations around the globe were a stark reminder that much remained to be done before diversity could be truly celebrated. Her country was proud of its ethnic, social and cultural integration successes over centuries, achieved through striking the right balance in its tradition of acceptance, compromise and tolerance. All cultures and religions were free to practise their observances and people of all races lived and prospered together, in harmony and mutual respect, enriching the Thai way of life in a manner unprecedented elsewhere. Among them were stateless persons granted Thai nationality, persons displaced from neighbouring countries, and foreign workers.

The Thai Constitution embodied the commitment to social diversity, providing for the equality of all citizens before the law, without distinction, and for freedom of cultural expression. For its part, the Government continued to pursue a multicultural policy and ensure the implementation of related international instruments. Social and cultural dialogue came naturally to the Thai people. Notwithstanding the difficulty of initiating dialogue with those who sought to impose extremism, violence and separation with a view to carving out their own independent State, inclusive diversity and pluralism would continue to serve Thai society for years to come as a force for overcoming intolerance, radicalism and hate.

Ms. H. MARTINS (Portugal) spoke of the populist and nationalist rhetoric that promoted conflict under the guise of defending cultural and religious identity, saying that it was a worrying trend aimed at confining people and celebrating division rather than diversity. Parliamentarians must therefore address the dangers of xenophobic populism by reflecting on its causes and finding ways of promoting openness and cultural dialogue. Respect for a pluralistic society was essential to peace, with inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue ever more imperative in a world so disturbingly beset by tensions often rooted in religion. As theologian Hans Küng had said, there would be no peace among nations without peace among religions and no peace among religions without dialogue among religions.

In Europe, social and political tensions had arisen from the mass influx of refugees fleeing conflict zones or seeking better lives. In that regard, her country's migration policies were an example of best practice, demonstrating solidarity with those in suffering and also upholding their civil rights through concrete measures in support of their integration to Portuguese society. Populists sought to reverse the globalization that had brought peoples and cultures closer together, whereas it could continue to contribute to the well-being for all, provided that diversity was seen as a richness and not a threat. The key was to invest in social cohesion to promote a sense of respect for identity. For its part, the IPU must further promote dialogue, mediation and diplomacy as the means to strengthening cultural diversity, resolving conflicts and defending human rights so as to create bridges of understanding for the sake of global peace and well-being.

Mr. J.I. ECHANIZ (Spain), likewise quoting theologian Hans Küng, said that the international community had affirmed its respect for religious beliefs and religious symbols, recognizing that faith-based discrimination offended human dignity and undermined peaceful coexistence. The visibility of the world's diverse religions was increasing, however, and differences must therefore be embraced to overcome defensive attitudes driven by fear. To that end, national and international frameworks for building trust and understanding must be established, collaborative efforts must be undertaken to find innovative solutions for peace and sustainability, and space must be created for the exploration of spiritual roots.

Dialogue had always been vital to achieving peace, which was sacred, and it was for people, not States, to promote inter-faith dialogue and acknowledge different religious traditions. In the face of rising intolerance, extremism and xenophobia, such dialogue was more vital than ever. The challenge was to take on board the ideas of others on the basis that none was superior to another. Religious diversity and freedom of thought and conscience must also be respected at the more local level. On those scores, the IPU was well placed to serve as a model and thus set the trend.

Ms. M. BONELL (Andorra) said that cultural pluralism was part of the social wealth in an interconnected world where diversity was an established fact but where the growth in extremism and terrorism created confusion and mistrust of difference. In the micro-State of Andorra, there were numerous religions and scores of different nationalities, yet social peace prevailed thanks to its integration policy. With education paramount to promoting respect for cultural and religious pluralism, politicians had a duty to guarantee access for all to a first-class public education system instilling

values that engendered social cohesion in diversity. In his country's education model comprising the Andorran, French and Spanish systems, Catalan and other subjects were taught with the aim of strengthening inclusion at the same time as national identity, irrespective of origin or religion. The country's linguistic diversity was in fact one of its most precious assets.

Such models were a means to achieving true equality of opportunity and rights, which formed the basis of peaceful coexistence and dialogue. Equality before the law, without discrimination of any kind, was also a principle enshrined in the Andorran Constitution. A white paper on inequality had nonetheless identified situations of gender, ethnic and religious discrimination that called for remedies. In the globalized world, however, efforts to promote cultural pluralism and peace must also be widened to the international level, including by taking advantage of forums such as the IPU to strengthen the commitment to cooperation for dialogue in the fight against hatred. To that end, dialogue among countries was increasingly essential and necessarily implied not only self-expression but also the ability to listen.

Ms. A.M. MARI MACHADO (Cuba) said that all forms of discrimination and intolerance must be eliminated, just as all doctrines based on racial or cultural superiority must be rejected, together with racial profiling, religious slander and all similar actions undermining human dignity, equality and justice. Religious and cultural diversity must be respected for the sake of peace and an enabling environment for self-determination. As a source of identity and innovation, culture was a key factor in the promotion of human rights, development and economic growth. The involvement of citizens in that process was, however, threatened by the expansion of multinational corporations, which ultimately distorted cultural patterns through their domination of production and encouragement of thoughtless consumption.

In Cuba, the revival of the multicultural environment was supported by the constitutional and legal framework. The country's long-standing aim of eradicating racial prejudice had achieved successes such as those evidenced by the composition of its Parliament; yet there were remaining vestiges of such prejudice, exploited moreover by the United States in a bid to foment social division. Cultural and religious pluralism was nonetheless visibly advancing by way of the harmonious approach adopted in striving for unity and common ideals. Cuba consequently boasted a multitude of religious denominations, each with its own places of worship and institutions, although some were fighting for economic survival, thanks to the criminal United States blockade. Cuba was furthermore actively pursuing its inter-faith dialogue to good effect, as epitomized by its hosting of a historic encounter between the leaders of the Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches, who had set an example by calling for an end to terrorism and religious persecution.

Ms. D. SOLÍZ (Ecuador) said that Ecuador was a diverse and multicultural country with democratic representatives but noted that declarations of principle concerning cultural diversity were not enough; such diversity, in all its forms and manifestations, had to be fully understood and appreciated in order to create the necessary legal frameworks for its protection. To that end, horizontal dialogues among all communities were of vital benefit. In many parts of Latin America, optimism for multiculturalism had been renewed following constitutional and other measures introduced to promote unity and diversity. The need to respect the linguistic and other rights of indigenous minorities had thus been newly recognized, with parliaments enshrining in law the principles of inclusion and diversity on that basis. The reality of the cultural diversity in Latin America was consequently visible in its leaderships and parliaments.

That reality was not, however, reflected in the distribution of wealth in the continent, with women, indigenous peoples and those of African origin disproportionately affected by poverty. Inclusiveness focused on such groups should therefore form part of the endeavour for peace and social justice, bearing in mind that democracy meant respect for others. She welcomed all national efforts aimed at the peaceful settlement of conflicts in her region, which firmly rejected external threats and interference in its affairs. She thus condemned the United States blockade of Cuba. She suggested freedom of movement of people as a topic for discussion in the IPU setting and called for a shift towards sustainable citizenship as a way forward to achieving full cultural pluralism.

Mr. A. TAVARES CORREIA (Cabo Verde) said that growth and development were worthless unless the underlying intention was to promote healthy coexistence. Little practical benefit had been achieved on that score, however, despite the recurrent national and international focus on the promotion and protection of such values as harmony, peace, non-discrimination and respect for difference. The world's youth had therefore unfortunately seen that desired targets had remained unmet, calling into question the cosmetic and often hypocritical approaches followed. It was time to reassess and devise new and more effective strategies, starting with concrete action to promote cultural pluralism through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue.

Parliamentarians should drive such action through developing and implementing robust legal instruments for encouraging cultural pluralism and realizing citizens' rights in that domain. While natural resources were important for national development, a country's main asset was always its people. With improved education and training, opportunities for economic and political participation would be enhanced. Citizens would in turn feel more respected and have a greater sense of belonging to their communities, which would spur them on to engage proactively in building fair, developed and inclusive nations offering the promise of peace and opportunity for all. Currently celebrating their 25 years of democracy, the inhabitants of his small and secular country lived together in harmony under a Constitution that guaranteed and protected their human rights and fundamental freedoms, irrespective of race, colour or religion. In closing, he stressed the international imperative to promote cultural pluralism through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, reinforced by other effective mechanisms in addition.

Mr. R. MUNAWAR (Indonesia) said that religion and ethnicity were key elements of identity for many and that the shared mission to promote global peace and pluralism entailed the responsibility to establish close and respectful relationships with others of different beliefs and ethnicities. As one of the world's most ethnically diverse nations, Indonesia had multiculturalism and pluralism in its national blood. Since independence, its people had moreover lived passionately by the motto of unity in diversity, which was the foundation for peace, justice, sustainable development and indeed national survival. In 2012, the parliamentary event it had hosted on inter-faith dialogue had demonstrated the commitment and willingness of people of different faiths, beliefs and ethnicities to engage in constructive dialogue and promote the spirit of mutual trust, respect, understanding and tolerance.

While the need for intensified dialogue among communities was emphasized in Indonesia as a means of conflict prevention, challenges remained, such as ethnic discrimination and religious sentiments further exacerbated by lack of education and shallow representation of religious values and cultural norms. Regrettably, the young generation's absorption of such attitudes increased the risk of violence in future. Actions to create global peace and stability through inter-faith, interethnic and intercultural dialogue included: urging the involvement of religious leaders in promoting pluralism, tolerance and peaceful coexistence; promoting inclusive education at all levels; continuously working to alleviate poverty by ensuring equal rights and economic opportunities for minorities; engaging people in dialogue with cultural and religious leaders; identifying the root cause of religious extremism; and enhancing the media role in eliminating prejudice, sexism, chauvinism, bigotry and all other forms of intolerance and discrimination.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) said that, together with tolerance, dialogue and cooperation in an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding, respect for cultural diversity was among the best guarantees of international peace and security. In the Rakhine State of Myanmar, the extreme violence and persecution inflicted on the Rohingya minority had been described as a textbook example of ethnic cleansing. The result of those actions had been a mass exodus of the Rohingya into Bangladesh, which was already hosting hundreds of thousands who had fled earlier. He expressed gratitude for the life-saving assistance and relief extended from all quarters to alleviate the suffering of the displaced Rohingya. For its part, the Bangladeshi Government had organized food, shelter and medical care for the refugees.

Bangladesh was already a country that, in line with SDG 16, promoted a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development. Different cultural and religious heritage sites were found throughout the land, while the Constitution prohibited discrimination on any ground and enshrined the right to profess, practise and propagate any religion, as well as the right of all religious communities to establish their own religious institutions. The country was in fact pursuing its national development and engagement in global affairs on the basis of peaceful coexistence, social justice, and freedom from poverty, hunger, exploitation and aggression. While people had different religions, languages and colour of skin, they all belonged to the human race.

Mr. L.F. DUQUE GARCÍA (Colombia), member of Andean Parliament, said that, in his country's peace process, constructive dialogue had been fundamental to achieving the historic agreement on transitional justice that had marked the end of 50 years of destructive conflict with many thousands of deaths and massive internal displacement. Under that unique agreement, the members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia had disarmed and demobilized and were being reintegrated into society. They were also set to establish a political party that would eventually take part in the country's elections. The international community had followed and supported the peace process, which had helped to promote its success.

The fact that so many of the world's conflicts were triggered by religious or ethnic differences highlighted the significance of inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue in peacebuilding. Cultural diversity should not be a cause for exclusion. There must be mutual respect and acceptance within and among

communities, with no one culture dominating another and no discrimination on religious, ethnic, linguistic or other grounds. For their part, governments must recognize the cultural specificities of their people and work to change attitudes so that that all individuals assumed their rightful place in society.

Ms. Z. GRECEANII (Moldova) said that, across the globe, old conflicts were being revived and flaring into new ethnic and religious conflicts, including in the neighbouring countries of Moldova, itself weakened by political intrigue and instability. Domestic and external factors were to blame for her country's difficulties, including those created as a result of binding obligations under agreements that threatened its traditional, cultural and Christian values and that had moreover been concluded in a non-democratic manner. The central position of Moldova among different civilizations had helped to establish its traditions of multiculturalism and inter-ethnic tolerance, yet turbulent times had led to conflict after decades of peaceful and harmonious coexistence among its many different peoples. Thanks to concerted national and international efforts, however, hopes for a peaceful resolution of that long-standing conflict in Transnistria were finally rising.

By contrast, an emerging inter-ethnic conflict in southern Moldova had been averted in exemplary fashion through the wise actions of both sides, coupled with the assistance of external actors. The Orthodox Church had also been instrumental in harmonizing inter-ethnic relations in Moldova, which at the same time was faced with protecting its ethnic world now that over half of its active labour force lived elsewhere. Attempts were under way, furthermore, to undermine the Moldovan language - spoken by almost three-quarters of the population - as a means of eroding nationhood. Recent history had convincingly demonstrated that development was dependent on inter-faith and inter-ethnic understanding. Human beings needed one another and efforts must therefore be united to overcome differences and thus achieve mutual understanding, peace and prosperity.

Ms. M. KIENER NELLEN (Switzerland) said that, as a multilingual country with four national languages, Switzerland espoused the principle of cultural diversity. While it had no minorities per se, all citizens could consider themselves to be a minority, as they each had something different about them. Under the Swiss Constitution, they were required to live together in their diversity, respect the characteristics of others, show solidarity, and demonstrate openness to the world.

Concerning inter-faith dialogue, she said that her experience at the first Congress of the Leaders of World and Traditional Religions in Kazakhstan had left a striking impression on her, as had a recently published book entitled *Christian engagement with Islam: Ecumenical journeys since 1910*. It was unfortunate that, in Switzerland, the authorities had recently been obliged to close a place of worship used to incite hatred and conflict in the name of religion. As to inter-ethnic dialogue, a previous speaker in the debate had commented that politicians must act as role models when communicating in their parliamentary debates, whereas the conduct of Members at times during the present Assembly had been far from exemplary on that score. Participants should instead take greater care to listen to the opinions voiced by others. She recommended a visit to the side exhibition relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, which showcased the prominent role of women in peace efforts, and concluded by citing an Indian proverb: those who spoke a lot had less time to think.

Mr. I.R. AL-KUWARI (Qatar) said that the events and transformations occurring around the globe, and notably in the Middle East, underlined the crucial need to promote cultural pluralism through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue. Despite the existence of international conventions and treaties guaranteeing the rights of peoples to self-determination, some continued to suffer oppression under dictatorships. The result was instability, which provided fertile ground for extremism and the emergence of terrorist groups posing a threat to international peace and security. There could be no dialogue, however, without democracy and respect for international human rights law and the sovereignty of peoples and States.

Qatar was working to cement the pillars of peace, stability, rule of law and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It believed that nation-building was achieved through cooperation, mutual respect and coexistence, irrespective of religion, culture and ethnicity. Hence, in addition to its regular hosting of international conferences for dialogue among religions, it had established the Doha International Centre for Interfaith Dialogue in order to promote a culture of dialogue, acceptance and peaceful coexistence among religions. It had also established the Doha Centre for Media Freedom to strengthen freedom of information as a human right. He called on Members to join in condemning all acts of terrorism, including the recent cowardly atrocity committed in Mogadishu, which had badly damaged his country's embassy and counted the chargé d'affaires among its scores of victims. Such acts would continue as long as the perpetrators and their supporters continued to escape justice and find safe haven in States that fostered terrorism. They must instead be held to account.

Mr. O. HAV (Denmark) said that, in a world undergoing radical change, it was crucial to demonstrate constructive dialogue and respect for other people and societies. Such dialogue was undermined, however, if individuals lied about others, spread fake news and sent one-line Tweets about complicated issues and people. Solutions were possible, on the other hand, if countries encouraged dialogue and reached out to others. Trade between countries must be fair and take into account differences in development and technology. Profound inequality in the distribution of wealth and resources compromised the potential for development in the public interest.

Every citizen must promote integration through respect for all, including when speaking to or about fellow human beings, while international cooperation would help nations to fight human trafficking and the cynical exploitation of misery. Nations should also naturally assist those whose lives were threatened, without encouraging them to abandon their familiar cultures, languages and home countries, and improve opportunities so that people were in a position to support their families. In the western world, development was primarily created through a declared intent of freedom, equality and solidarity as forces for creating opportunities and respect. A vital part of that development and democratization process was respect for all minorities. Indeed, the treatment of minorities was the litmus test for any society. If minorities were excluded and disrespected, they would feel no responsibility to their immediate community and nor would they contribute to the wider community at large.

Mr. M. TASNER VATOVEC (Slovenia) said that the Quebec City Declaration had reaffirmed the IPU conviction that mutual understanding and acceptance were achievable as guarantees of progress and welfare for humanity in a closely interconnected world. The increasing number of crisis and conflict situations around the globe clearly indicated, however, that the status quo in international relations and geopolitical interests was no longer viable. For people to be truly free and equal in rights, the fight must continue against poverty, inequality and discrimination on grounds of gender, race, colour or sexual orientation. Goods and riches must also be fairly and equally redistributed. Only through campaigning for such basic rights would the aspiration for inclusive and tolerant societies be realized.

Under the Slovenian Constitution, religion and State were separate and all citizens were guaranteed the freedom to express their religious and other beliefs. Concerning the preservation, vitality and development of minority cultures, focus should be placed on meeting the specific needs of those groups and on increasing the acceptance of new groups. Indeed, openness and altruism were especially important in the current era of mass migration driven by conflict and other factors. Above all, strife among peoples must cease and be replaced by mutual understanding and acceptance. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians must set an example by their actions, including defending equal rights and freedoms for all and promoting dialogue and closer cooperation as means of overcoming conflict. In so doing, they must also involve citizens in democratic processes and work to achieve universal equality and bridge cultural divides, which were ultimately no more than psychological.

Mr. M. TOMASSONI (San Marino) said that parliamentarians must reflect on current challenges and question their ability to predict and address the sociocultural and political transformations under way. Globalization was creating economic imbalances that were politically unsustainable and ethically unacceptable. Without a new culture capable of reducing disparities and oppression, a true carnage would occur, damaging nature and providing a breeding ground for terrorism. A serious rethink was therefore required that took into account cultures, identities and sustainability needs. The impact of new technologies furthermore demanded new forms of government and legislation emanating from dialogue among people with different identities and cultures. In addressing the challenges of the migration increasingly characterizing societies, moreover, politicians must seek to balance the relationship between cultural diversity and individual identity while also identifying an integration strategy enabling peaceful coexistence among people of different cultural backgrounds.

In seeking uniformity, globalization imposed one cultural model above all others. It was thus crucial to safeguard multiculturalism in line with the principles of democracy and human rights and the rules of respect, non-discrimination, peace and justice, yet many defended human rights while feeding dynamics that did the opposite. Those principles and rules would be most effectively upheld through respect for international law, as well as the promotion of intercultural and inter-faith dialogue, as a road map towards an integration process that protected cultural identity and prevented conflict caused by the plurality of identities. Parliamentarians must therefore, inter alia, promote respect for fundamental rights and democracy, invest in international cooperation and cultural diplomacy, and work by all means for inclusion and all that it implied.

Mr. J. CHAGNON (Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie) said that his organization was particularly active in promoting cultural diversity and that an estimated several thousand languages were spoken around the world, in addition to thousands of dialects. Diversity was indeed an inherent feature of humanity and a common heritage to be celebrated and preserved, especially in the current digital age, where greater interconnectedness also highlighted differences. The new virtual world could nonetheless help to improve mutual understanding, to which end his organization was working to coordinate relevant legislation, including with the aim of ensuring that cultural industries benefited from the digital boom as much as multinational corporations.

Well-paid jobs in digital technology could also help to reduce inequalities, provided that young people, especially girls, were taught digital skills as part of their education and encouraged to engage in the digital sector. Funding should also be channelled into building the infrastructure needed to provide affordable access for all to the Internet, especially as each job created in innovation could generate four times as many in other sectors. Such measures could promote economic stability and fair distribution of wealth, which were ingredients for peaceful coexistence. In a world of persistently declining civil and political freedoms and erosion of trust in elected officials, parliaments must engage more with their public through such initiatives as online petitions and consultations. Digital innovations of that nature enabled transparency and dialogue, promoting in turn the stability needed for peace. Efforts must therefore be made to harness the digital revolution for promoting cultural pluralism and global peace.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.

Sitting of Tuesday, 17 October (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Ms. V. Matvienko, President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 7 of the agenda

Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar
(A/137/7-DR)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolution on the emergency item (A/137/7-DR).

Ms. S.F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran), *Rapporteur of the drafting committee*, introducing the draft resolution, said that the plenary debate on the emergency item had afforded an opportunity to share concerns and underscore the need for urgent action in support of the Rohingya people. In strongly condemning the violence, participants had called on the Myanmar Government to allow immediate humanitarian access to the affected areas and appealed for swift international action to alleviate the suffering of the Rohingya people and facilitate the safe return of Rohingya refugees to their homes.

Composed of members of the delegations of Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico, Morocco, Slovenia and Sudan, the drafting committee had produced an important draft resolution reflecting the genuine concern of the world parliamentary community to promote an end to the plight of the Rohingya. The hope was that, if adopted, it would set the stage for close cooperation between the IPU and the Myanmar Parliament in addressing the humanitarian and human rights issues as described. She commended the draft resolution for adoption.

The PRESIDENT said she took it that the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

It was so decided.

A delegate from MYANMAR said that the strong language and demands articulated in the resolution were counterproductive, inflammatory and inconsistent with the reality on the ground. The herculean task of resolving the situation required more time and space, as well as understanding and assistance from the international community. His delegation therefore dissociated itself from both the letter and spirit of the resolution.

A delegate from CHINA, condemning the violence against the Rohingya people, said that he looked forward to a rapid normalization of the situation, which involved a complexity of long-standing ethnic and religious issues. The international community must play its part by encouraging the concerned parties to pursue dialogue as the way forward to resolving the crisis and the problem of the Rohingya refugees. That being so, his delegation had reservations concerning some aspects of the resolution.

The PRESIDENT said that due note would be taken of the reservations expressed and stated that the resolution had been adopted by consensus.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue

Resumption of the debate

The PRESIDENT invited special guest speaker, Mr. A. Othman Altwaijri, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), to address the Assembly.

Mr. A. OTHMAN ALTWAIJRI (Director General, Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ISESCO), *guest speaker*, said that cultural pluralism was an enduring feature of human societies, which comprised people of different orientations, backgrounds, beliefs, races and languages, in turn producing cultural, spiritual and other specificities that gave communities their unique identity. Indeed, as stated in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted in 2001

by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), culture took diverse forms across time and space and was embodied in the uniqueness and plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind.

The centuries-old Islamic culture had a rich and diverse heritage founded on dialogue, rapprochement and coexistence among religious followers, confessional groups and races. The concept of difference, including in religion, morals and deeds, was in fact mentioned in the Qur'an. Ordained by the divine wisdom, such difference was a blessing of which many were unaware. As experience had taught, dialogue was a wise choice leading ultimately to the fulfilment of noble goals that elevated humankind, created progress and built a solid future. Serious and constructive dialogue among cultures, civilizations and followers of religion furthermore contributed immensely to the promotion of world peace and the values of peaceful coexistence. Interregional and inter-ethnic dialogue was the most important element of that coexistence, based on the principles of democracy and human citizenship, and the essential prelude to constructing a new world free of wars and crises to serve the supreme interests of all peoples.

Dialogue was more vital than ever before in the current global climate of civil wars and ongoing crises, not to mention the murder and racial and religious displacement caused by blind fanaticism and bitter hatred. Such appalling catastrophes would not have occurred had constructive dialogue prevailed and had cultural and religious pluralism been effectively harnessed to promote interregional and inter-ethnic dialogue among governments and peoples. More importantly, had governments engaged in positive, earnest and successful dialogue, the United Nations Security Council would not have failed in its mission to maintain international peace and security. His hope was that good would triumph over evil to create a fairer, safer and more peaceful world in which all peoples lived in dignity and free from oppression in a global community where respect for others prevailed.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Othman Altwajiri for his enlightening presentation and invited delegates to continue their statements on the theme of the General Debate.

Mr. L. KÖVÉR (Hungary) said that cultural identity was an asset inseparable from human identity. Human beings sought to create and integrate into communities providing them with security and protection. The preservation of cultural diversity necessarily implied protection of the fundamental right to uphold the identity rooted in shared culture, including religion. Without an awareness of the values imbued through culture, individuals were incapable of recognizing, championing and defending their interests. Minority communities were under threat, however, either as a result of their own self-defence reflex or attempts to rob them of their culture and identity in order to degrade them into mere economic units. Cultural, religious and ethnic conflicts, meanwhile, were increasingly used to question the legitimacy of nations, religions and cultures with a view to undermining State sovereignty.

In such circumstances, dialogue was essential for countering the threat posed by the global network of secretive private power centres that lacked a community mandate and relied instead on financial resources to disrupt the balance of power in democratically elected governments. The victory of those powers over democratic legitimacy remained thwarted, however, by the natural desire of humans to control their own fate. In that same war against diversity, migrants and host countries were victims of manipulation, with rootlessness as their eventual shared fate. Parliamentarians bore primary responsibility for both the occurrence and resolution of conflict. The real battle, however, lay between those defending traditions, faiths and values and nihilists who rejected all such principles. Natural diversity was not an obstacle to prosperity but a resource. The aspiration must be to achieve fairness and not exclusivity for the sake of the young generations and their future.

Mr. T. XHAFERI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious diversity was as important as biodiversity to the survival of Earth. Indeed, the development of civilization stemmed from that diversity, while globalization underscored the interconnectivity and mutual dependence of different cultures, ethnicities and religions. The contradiction was, however, that diversity, difference and inclusiveness fostered development and social well-being while, at the same time, intolerance, xenophobia and extremism jeopardized peace. Any clash of civilizations was more due to the absence of dialogue than to cultural and other differences, which must nonetheless be respected in accordance with the fundamental principles laid down in international human rights instruments. In view of their legislative, representative and oversight functions, parliaments offered the ideal setting for such dialogue.

His country was building a truly multicultural, multi-ethnic and multiconfessional society in which inclusiveness contributed to the development of all groups at all levels. It had in the past staved off a major civil war among some of its larger ethnic communities, thanks to dialogue assisted by international friends, but remained mindful of the painful wounds that persisted in the region from the ethnic and religious conflict waged following the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia. It had thus

organized various international conferences on dialogue among religions and civilizations, helping to stabilize the region and beyond. Dialogue and cooperation were indeed more than ever needed in the face of current challenges, including the migrant crisis, that nourished intolerance, xenophobia and intolerance. The point to remember, however, was that all individuals belonged to the same human race, irrespective of their differences.

Ms. F. BUSTREO (Assistant Director-General, World Health Organization - WHO) said that the long-standing collaboration between her Organization and the IPU had proved that constructive dialogue was the most powerful guarantee of a close link between science and policy. The role of parliamentarians in improving health, with a particular focus on women, children and adolescents, including in emergency settings, was indisputable. Gender equity remained a global goal, however. Women and children living in those settings were especially vulnerable, while elsewhere adolescents carried the heaviest burden, as indicated by the statistics on their deaths from mostly preventable or treatable causes. Adolescent girls and young women were particularly affected by HIV, while complications during pregnancy and childbirth were the second cause of death for girls in their mid- to late-teens, with several million others every year undergoing unsafe abortions. Millions of girls were married and had children, including under social pressure, and others became pregnant outside marriage. The incidence of gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation, was moreover higher among the millions of women and girls of childbearing age who lived in emergency situations.

More efforts were needed to address all such issues and, crucially in so doing, to engage with communities and their leaders. Parliamentarians were needed to promote such dialogue and develop laws and policies accordingly, including by making the case for adolescent health as central to the national and global agendas. Through their key functions, parliamentarians had the power to change the lives and futures of women and adolescents in emergency settings by serving as their voices to ensure that their health needs were heard and addressed.

Ms. E. MENDOZA FERNANDEZ (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that it was over 500 years since the colonial invasion of Latin America, during which entire peoples had been exterminated and their land pillaged in a historical injustice that their descendants must never forget. The invaders celebrated the annual anniversary day of the invasion as a conquest, whereas in Bolivia it was celebrated as the day of decolonization, thanks to the initiative of the country's first indigenous President. Significantly, that initiative indicated the triumph of the country's indigenous inhabitants in overcoming the discrimination, suppression and poverty to which they had long been subjected.

Her country had indeed come far in building a society where cultural pluralism was accepted as the norm. Indigenous communities had for the first time been involved in developing the Bolivian Constitution, which newly empowered the indigenous majority and guaranteed their rights. Indigenous groups were authorized by law to administer their own justice systems, for instance, and their communities played an active role in the country's political and economic life. They also brought cultural vibrancy with their multi-coloured clothing and woven fabrics. The indigenous peoples had representatives in parliament, where a substantial number of seats were held by women and young people. Parliament had furthermore enacted a landmark law allowing people to change their gender on their identity documents without prior judicial approval. In short, the country was benefiting from its cultural diversity, which was equally part of the global heritage and a means of breaking down barriers.

Mr. F.M. AMORUSO (Honorary President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean - PAM) said that times were crucial for the Mediterranean region, where the shared concerns included conflict, terrorism and mass migration. The rise of xenophobia and violence, linked to religious intolerance and refusal to integrate in countries of residence, were threatening the time-honoured Mediterranean culture of ethnic, religious and cultural pluralism and openness. For its part, PAM had organized a conference on dialogue among cultures and religions and the role of education in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. Participants had exchanged good practices and discussed freedom of worship and religious coexistence in the Mediterranean region, with a focus on the training of imams.

While interreligious and intercultural dialogue constituted the best response available to the threat of violence and extremism, it could take place only if human rights and fundamental freedoms were protected and ensured. Parliamentarians thus had the responsibility and duty to adopt the laws needed to fight hatred, discrimination and intolerance, in keeping with national and international commitments on human rights and asylum. PAM therefore regularly organized seminars for its members in order to increase their capacity to act. It also placed utmost importance on investing in education to give the young opportunities for socio-economic progress to better equip them to face common challenges that might otherwise lead to their radicalization. There could be no peace without tolerance and no tolerance without dialogue and mutual respect.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation) said that, for his country, which embodied cultural and religious diversity, inter-faith and inter-ethnic reconciliation was a prerequisite for national development, consolidation and prosperity. Mechanisms had thus been established to promote inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. All religions were freely practised and the rights of different cultures and ethnicities were upheld. There was also positive discrimination to promote the representation of ethnic groups in the regional parliaments. Rather than be divided and weakened by ethnic and religious differences, people should come together and reconcile their differences, which would by contrast only make them stronger. As the saying went, only fools learned from their own mistakes whereas the wise learned from the mistakes of others. It was also true to say, however, that some were guided by vested interests to discriminate against minorities and undermine the global values of diversity and tolerance enshrined in international instruments.

As a front runner in the areas of migration and adoption, the Russian Federation considered it vital to maintain stable and peaceful relations with the leaders of different religions. Social capital took time to make gains and should not be sacrificed to political ambition. As Einstein had said, laws alone could not secure freedom of expression; there must also be a spirit of tolerance in the entire population in order for all individuals to present their views. He therefore hoped that the concerted efforts of the IPU Members would strengthen that spirit, as well as cooperation and inter-parliamentary dialogue.

Mr. S. YADAMSUREN (Mongolia) said that the worrying confrontations within and among States were essentially rooted in inter-faith and inter-ethnic disputes. Parliamentarians must therefore carefully consider how inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue could promote cultural pluralism and peace. In Mongolia, protection of the basic rights of its minority groups and respect for their religious and cultural traditions were a key part of its national policy. It therefore supported all initiatives aimed at promoting inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue.

Differences in religion and culture were a frequent driver of migration, which had recently resulted in humanitarian crises and loss of life on an unprecedented scale. It was essential to educate the public about the challenges faced by migrants, while conflict-affected migrants should be protected and eventually helped to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. Dialogue must be based on mutual understanding and cooperation in order to strengthen solidarity against aggression committed in the name of religion and to promote cultural and religious diversity. Mongolia would continue to condemn the destruction of religious and cultural heritage in that context and to urge support for the preservation of cultural treasures.

Mr. A. Omari (Morocco), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. R. GONZÁLEZ ULLOA (Secretary General, Latin American and Caribbean Parliament - PARLATINO) said that the aim of the 23-member PARLATINO was to build peace and democracy in the region of Latin America, which was a melting pot of cultures, ethnic groups, religions and ideas. The large numbers of migrants to the region from other continents was enriching and also brought new challenges. For PARLATINO, dialogue was customary and standard practice, while in his own country of Costa Rica, which had no army and actively opposed nuclear weapons and trafficking in arms, peace was a way of being. The IPU set the example as a platform for dialogue among different cultures and nations. Its Members must therefore unite in solidarity on that platform in working for peace.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy) said that the recent celebration of the International Day of the Girl was a reminder of the challenges entailed in promoting the empowerment of girls, whose human rights continued to be violated across the world. Such practices as female genital mutilation and forced child marriage were rising in some countries and appearing for the first time in others where people on the move had brought with them social traditions that had strengthened as a means of preserving a cultural identity. The consequences of harmful practices imposed on girls in adolescence remained with them for life. Zero tolerance to those practices was therefore a must as part of the efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 on gender equality and the empowerment of all girls and women.

Another gender-related issue pertained to the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. An Italian parliamentary human rights committee had recently heard evidence from a representative of the Russian LGBTI community concerning the discrimination and persecution to which the community was subjected. The violent repression experienced by LGBTI individuals could have extreme and devastating consequences, including death, as in Chechnya, where numerous individuals presumed to be gay were reportedly being held and tortured in illegal detention centres. The calls within Chechnya to cleanse it of a sexual minority sounded heavy alarm

bells and underscored the imperative to move from statements of principle to action in defence of the Russian LGBTI community. The St. Petersburg AIDS Centre was setting the example by providing its services to all comers, without discrimination against anyone who might be identified as gay.

Mr. T. M'BAIKOUA (Central African Republic) said that rising extremism, xenophobia, racism and tribalism led to exclusion and bred inter-ethnic and interreligious violence and conflict caused by misunderstanding and intolerance, with dramatic repercussions. His country remained affected by the civil war between Muslims and Christians that had threatened its unity and integrity. The conflict between those two communities had erupted only after the advent of the Seleka rebel coalition, which, believing that the country's Muslim population was marginalized, had relentlessly targeted non-Muslim inhabitants and institutions. Its actions had provoked an extremely violent response from the anti-Balaka militia, which were composed mostly of animists and not, as many thought, of Christians. Although the country had since been in transition, the interreligious hatred and tension provoked by those events persisted, as did the violence.

At the height of the crisis, an inter-faith peace platform had been established with the aim of promoting dialogue and mutual understanding among Muslims and Christians in particular for the sake of reconciliation, national unity and social cohesion. Building on that aim, the country's new Constitution recognized the cultural diversity of the Central African people as a source of enrichment. The challenge of educating the public on the basis of that principle was being addressed through awareness-raising and other initiatives designed to promote tolerance and acceptance of others and overcome prejudice and fanaticism. Indeed, citizenship education from an early age was the best means of strengthening the values of tolerance, dignity, respect, solidarity and justice as part of the constant process of entrenching peace, in which interreligious and inter-ethnic dialogue played an indisputable role.

Ms. S.H. SOEHARTO (Indonesia) said that anti-corruption measures could strengthen the bridge of understanding that must be built among different ethnic and religious groups to ensure the full enjoyment of all the human rights and fundamental freedoms so intrinsic to any strong democracy. Once a certain threshold of corruption had been reached, a slight rise in corruption would impact that country's peace, whereas an increase in corruption in a country with a low level of corruption had less impact on that country's peace.

There could be no sustainable development without peace, and vice versa, which implied the need to work for SDG 16, which was to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies. In collaboration with others, her Organization – the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) – was developing a parliamentary handbook on the SDGs to provide examples of good practices and initiatives with the aim of strengthening the parliamentary role in the implementation of the SDGs. Parliamentarians must ensure, inter alia, that nothing could be corrupted or hidden by those in power. The negative impact of corruption could also be further prevented by advancing anti-corruption discussions in the context of inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue and by urging religious and other leaders to lead by example in combating corruption.

Ms. D. SOLÓRZANO (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that cultural richness stemmed from diversity and difference, which all must learn to respect in order to live peacefully together. Many governments, however, gave lip service to promoting cultural pluralism while forgetting that tolerance meant not only acknowledging religious and ethnic differences but also understanding them and the fact that no one must be condemned for being different. Parliamentarians must therefore seek to strengthen tolerance and respect worldwide.

In Venezuela, several hundred politicians were in prison for thinking differently from the party in power, which furthermore used its monopoly of the distribution of food to punish those in the community not among its card-carrying members. Such lack of tolerance was more reminiscent of a dictatorship, as it instilled fear in people and prevented them from voting freely. In those circumstances, the way to salvaging democracy was through its Parliament, which was why the Venezuelan Government wished to put an end to that institution as it stood. Without a parliament and parliamentarians, there was no democracy. She thanked all those who had expressed support for the Venezuelan people in their current plight, including the IPU, which worked above all to protect parliaments and democracy.

Mr. I. MACDONALD (Australia) said that the Australian nation comprised people of many origins, backgrounds and religions, with one quarter of its population born overseas and another quarter with at least one parent born overseas. Australians traced their births back to hundreds of countries, spoke hundreds of languages and followed a multitude of religions. Per capita, Australia was among the highest recipients of refugees from around the world. Australians were proud of their multicultural society and recognized cultural diversity as one of their greatest strengths in constructing

a future where everyone belonged. Australia was additionally home to the Australian Indigenous peoples, who had one of the oldest continuous cultures on Earth. All such characteristics enriched Australia and also made it unique, as did the fact that it had never experienced war or major insurrection on its soil.

Parliamentarians could do much to help build an inclusive and cohesive society by influencing community attitudes towards culturally and religiously diverse communities and by using the parliamentary forum to report on the many achievements of the communities they represented. In Australia, racism, vilification and all forms of discrimination were illegal and incitement of racial hatred was a criminal offence. The current Parliament included a diversity of members, many of whom had direct life experience as migrants or children of migrants, as well as of marginalization, prejudice and discrimination. They also knew the benefits of leaving behind fear and uncertainty for a country that valued individual freedom and democratic institutions and where children could grow up facing choice rather than barriers. By their actions and words, Australian parliamentarians promoted cultural pluralism and peace.

Mr. L. NABLI (Tunisia) said that the IPU efforts to ensure peace in a world of diverse cultures and religions were undeniably significant, with parliamentarians playing their role by developing and overseeing the implementation of legislation based on citizenship values that respected all elements of identity. Indeed, parliamentarians were the best guarantee of the trust, understanding and social peace that promoted acceptance of others and the elimination of discrimination and violence, which were triggers for extremism and intolerance. Inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue must furthermore be established as a way of life so as to preclude exclusion and marginalization, end conflict and create effective communication channels for ensuring compliance with relevant international conventions, bringing people together and adding other dimensions of identity without loss of values.

History proved that cultural cross-fertilization was an asset for humanity, whereas non-acceptance of others destroyed civilization. As traditional boundaries grew ever more meaningless in the interconnected world, it was vital to establish a global values system that reflected cultural diversity, to educate people to respect others, and to promote tolerance, coexistence and solidarity. The international community must work, inter alia, for the peaceful resolution of conflict, address such related matters as wealth inequality, and improve young people's economic prospects. Solutions to issues relating to migration and the integration of refugees must also be based on cultural understanding and take into account the interests of all stakeholders. Parliamentarians had a duty to initiate action in all such areas with the aim of instilling the values of tolerance and openness and rejecting all forms of extremism, violence, stereotyping and prejudice.

Mr. B. PIRSHTUK (Belarus) said that cooperation among nations and cultures was critical in the modern world, which must reject violence and confrontation. Without such cooperation and open inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, implementation of the SDGs would be impossible. For Belarus, the development of such dialogue was a priority in order to maintain the stability of relations among its many different ethnic and religious groups, among whom there were no tensions giving rise to conflict. Many of the NGOs registered in the country were actively engaged in promoting its cultural heritage and traditions and strengthening friendship among its peoples. Measures were in place to combat all forms of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, while the rights and freedoms of national minorities, including cultural rights, were enshrined in law.

Belarus was a multi-faith society where the followers of different religions coexisted in peace. Several thousand faith organizations operated freely and all religions were equal before the law. The freedom to choose and practise one's religion was guaranteed by law and citizens had similar freedom to change religion or indeed follow none. There was a Commissioner for Religious and Ethnic Affairs, who had representative offices country-wide, and advisory councils had been established to assist policy development in relation to those affairs. In short, the people of Belarus lived together in harmony and mutual respect, irrespective of ethnicity or faith, which was a valuable asset to the country.

Mr. M.T KHUN (Myanmar) said that social cohesion and stability were achievable through promoting inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, in which groups in his country had engaged, reiterating that no religion could condone violence. As home to numerous ethnic groups, each with its own distinctive culture and adherence to various religions, Myanmar was one of the world's most ethnically diverse countries. Those groups had always lived in harmony, indicating that the current situation in Rakhine State was not due to religious or ethnic conflict but had rather been instigated by a terrorist group aiming to occupy territory. The Myanmar authorities felt deeply for the suffering and plight of the affected communities and were irrevocably committed to the restoration of peace, stability and rule of law. In no way did they condone any violence or human rights violations.

The actions of that terrorist group had disrupted the Government's efforts to seek an amicable, sustainable and peaceful solution to a complex situation and prompted the mass exodus of peaceful inhabitants fleeing from the terror. The Government had provided humanitarian assistance, without discrimination, to those who had fled to areas of calm and it had also pledged to implement the recommendations of the Rakhine Advisory Commission. The young Myanmar Parliament had earnestly engaged in the peace efforts, urging the Government to take swift action in accordance with the law on terrorism and restore the area to a degree of normalcy enabling the return of those who had fled. The Parliament would spare no effort to assume the role of an effective legislature representing all the peoples of Myanmar by debating policy thoroughly, adopting relevant legislation and holding the Government to account.

Mr. D. OPREA (Romania) said that, in a world so severely afflicted by religious and ethnic hatred, it was of paramount importance to discuss ways in which parliaments could enhance dialogue and tolerance and reduce social divides at the national level, as well as across cultures and countries. Although an Orthodox country, Romania had voted in non-Orthodox leaders during its most recent elections. The official language was Romanian, but national minorities had the right to receive instruction in their own language throughout all levels of education. The rights of those minorities were furthermore safeguarded by an institutional framework comprising entities concerned with inter-ethnic relations, discrimination and other relevant issues. National minorities were also guaranteed parliamentary representation under the country's Constitution. All such measures promoted social peace and internal stability.

As to the Romanian Parliament, it was a secular forum with members of different faiths but was, nonetheless, a member of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO). Romania knew no social unrest provoked by religious or ethnic differences and nor did it have any extremist groups in its territory, all of which was solid proof of the effectiveness of the dialogue taking place within the country and with international and regional organizations specializing in human rights and minority issues.

Ms. F. Benbadis (Algeria), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.

Mr. M.R. MAJIDI (Secretary General, Asian Parliamentary Assembly - APA) said that representatives of Asian parliaments had recently gathered in Bhutan to share their views concerning the need to promote and respect cultural diversity, encourage inter-faith dialogue and promote peace in Asia. The aim was to combine all efforts towards building a common future for Asian people and indeed the world. The prosperity and success of all nations should be rooted in common interests, challenges and values serving as guidance for the democratic management of society. The current International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures provided a unique opportunity for parliaments to engage in its plan of action and do their utmost to promote cultural diversity while closing existing cultural gaps among nations.

His 42-member Assembly consistently promoted the role of parliaments in development at all levels, as demonstrated by its resolutions on a wide range of issues. It also attached particular importance to peace and stability, good governance, judicial empowerment and best parliamentary practices. The role of parliaments was indispensable in building a future of equality, justice, peace and sustainable development, areas in which the Asian Parliamentary Assembly was keen to collaborate with other parliamentary organizations. It therefore looked forward to benefiting further from the rich experience of the IPU and from interaction with its Members, which were welcome to participate in its own meetings in order to address issues of shared concern.

Mr. L. BARRÍA (Panama) said that the world was both more globalized and interconnected and more threatened and endangered than ever before. While religious diversity was nothing new, religions had previously remained within their own geographical and cultural boundaries. In Panama, there was a diversity of Christian faiths and a growing diversity of other religions, all of which coexisted in harmony, with freedom of worship enshrined in the Constitution. Respect for diversity and inclusion strengthened nations and promoted social cohesion. It presupposed, however, an absence of discrimination on any basis. As an old Arab proverb said, it was better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Parliamentarians must light that candle by promoting inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue as a key component of respect for others and the promotion of sustainable peace. They should furthermore seek to ward off the causes of potential conflict through legislating to promote harmonious coexistence and bridges among communities, religions and countries.

The challenge was to overcome the paradox of tradition versus modernity, especially as science and technology were taken as instruments of power and not holistic transformation, whereas they could in fact be instruments of democracy, education and justice. Dialogue was a means of expanding mutual knowledge to banish all kinds of prejudices, wherein lay the importance of education in helping to overcome cultural and religious divides. As a bridge to the world by virtue of its geographical

location and canal, Panama celebrated religious and ethnic pluralism. He and other parliamentarians would surely learn lessons from the debate to take home with them and use in order to promote and enhance diversity in their own environments.

Mr. A. ALAHMAD (Palestine) said that, in the protracted struggle for liberation waged by the steadfast Palestinian people, the most prominent achievement had been the recognition accorded by the United Nations, in 2012, to the State of Palestine, which would never forego its right to end the Israeli occupation of its territories. Following recent political developments and the measures under way to restore the rule of law in those territories, the pretexts used by the Israeli occupier to evade the peace process and implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions no longer obtained. The Palestinian people was committed to those resolutions calling for, inter alia, a two-State solution, to the Arab Peace Initiative and to working for the fundamental human rights denied to Palestinian prisoners.

Palestine was proud that neither organized nor State terrorism had penetrated it, despite numerous attempts by external forces, and that it was free of sectarian and religious conflict. The Palestinian people had always been as one, irrespective of religion, and looked forward to a pluralistic democracy. Unlike the occupying power, Palestine did not claim to be a democracy while inflicting oppression and injustice on others and sponsoring terrorist organizations to target civilians and their property. It also refused to bow to the attempts by extremist Israeli groups to turn the conflict into a religious one by targeting holy sites throughout Palestine, especially in Jerusalem, with the occupation forces turning a blind eye. He appealed to all parliaments to work for the right of peoples to self-determination and for the implementation of related United Nations resolutions, as well as to join in combating terrorism in all its forms.

Mr. K. ÖRNFJÄDER (Sweden) said that ethnic tensions and conflict underscored the need to build mutual understanding and acceptance at all levels, which began with inclusiveness, equal opportunities for all and equality before the law. Science and education were key tools to that end, while globalization should be seen as an opportunity for mutual learning rather than as a threat. Policies for inclusion and participation should guide the identification of best practices in a constantly changing world, where the challenges could in fact foster greater solidarity and more robust political action, including through such activities as the current debate in search of new ideas. Noting that societies had been linked through migration for centuries, he said that communities working to assist refugees and provide safe havens for those in need must be celebrated.

There was a plurality of religions in Sweden, where the freedom to choose and practise a religion was enshrined in the Constitution, which also prohibited discrimination on grounds of religion or belief. The country was relatively secular, however, and a substantial proportion of the population were atheists, but the religious landscape was becoming increasingly diverse and complex as a result of the presence of migrants. Sweden in fact had more refugees per capita than any other European country, a situation that was not without challenges. In the wider context of Swedish support for the diplomatic efforts to uphold the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and to end the conflict there, his delegation looked forward during its stay in St. Petersburg to the opportunity for a direct and honest discussion of the issue in a spirit of neighbourly cooperation.

Mr. A.Q. ARYUBI ZAZAI (Afghanistan) said that the capacity and willingness to sustain dialogue across boundaries was vital for achieving peace, stability and sustainable development. Peace was undoubtedly a major priority for all nations, including Afghanistan, which had endured much suffering and loss of life in the worsening fight against international terrorism and extremism but always called for dialogue. Prerequisites for genuine and lasting peace included justice, equality, gender equality and recognition of minority rights. Parliamentarians must play their part by driving concrete actions to further promote mutual understanding and tolerance, build a world of harmonious coexistence in diversity, and strengthen the enjoyment of equal rights. The narrowing of religious and social divides must also be pursued at the global level, including by marking such occasions as the World Interfaith Harmony Week in February of each year.

He called on Members to join in addressing the challenges associated with the actions of radical terrorist groups that sought to achieve their inhumane goals and objectives in the name of religion. He also advocated the establishment of a committee to examine and resolve critical international land border issues through dialogue and negotiation with the authorities in the countries concerned. Parliamentarians must commit to robust action to rein in governments involved in the financing and training of terrorists on their soil. Those governments, moreover, should be aware that the mouths they fed would ultimately return to bite them in pursuit of its main goal of killing innocents and destroying public institutions.

Ms. M. TRIANTAFYLLOU (Greece) said that cultural and religious differences should prompt rapprochement and communication but were instead being exploited to fuel disputes, fanaticism, crime and intolerance, with helpless or culturally diverse citizens as the victims. Destabilization, refugee flows and religious fundamentalism were all related, while imperialist interventions, weapons supply, indifference to civilian casualties and catastrophic management of refugee situations were a dark reality. Many a time, furthermore, had the western world supported the rise of leaders to power only to destroy them decades later, which should be a lesson learned. An honest international dialogue must be opened up to explore practical means of promoting peace, eliminating stereotyping and alleviating the differences and inequalities that pitted rich against poor, native against foreigner, believers against non-believers and so forth.

Greece had introduced initiatives focused on peace, friendship and cooperation among peoples in keeping with the rules of international law. Despite its grave financial crisis, it had welcomed refugees when others were greeting them with xenophobia. It had also organized an international conference on religious and cultural pluralism and peaceful coexistence in the Middle East and convened an international forum of ancient civilizations to explore cultural heritage as a vehicle for promoting friendly relations, international cooperation, stability and prosperity. Greece was thus a pioneering force to be emulated in strengthening the values of peace and multiculturalism. For their part, parliamentarians must seek to deepen democracy, involve citizens in decision-making, eliminate social inequalities, promote peace and nuclear disarmament, and strengthen respect and tolerance for diversity.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that dialogue among the many ethnic and religious components of society must be open, transparent and based on tolerance. The topic and the difficulties associated with it had been much written about and discussed to the extent that the methodological foundations for such dialogue were in place. While cultural experiences undeniably differed, they also invariably had features in common. The important thing was to preserve openness to dialogue and the diversity in the rituals of daily life, such as those relating perhaps to cuisine or forms of expression.

In Morocco, diversity was a fundamental principle forming the basis of the national identity, which was a melting pot of several different identities, itself an indication of the openness and dialogue within the society. The strength of that identity was moreover invaluable in the face of extremism and in the war on terror. Democracy and political pluralism had been successfully established, despite attempts to undermine the efforts to achieve both. He expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle and noted the support received for the autonomy plan proposed by Morocco for its southern provinces. There was no battle of cultures, ethnicities or languages in Morocco, as they were all part of a single vision that enabled their very diversity.

Ms. B. JÓNSDÓTTIR (Iceland) urged Members to support the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, saying that its incredible work was crucial to ensuring that fellow parliamentarians were not forced out of office, imprisoned or disappeared. Many democracies, old and new, were in severe crisis to which no solutions were in sight. Current problems were not best solved by repeating past fixes. The demand for more women and young people to engage was growing, yet the achievement of gender equality in parliament was not enough and young people in developed democracies were no longer interested in voting. It was saddening that few participants truly listened during important and often inspirational debates taking place at such a long-standing institution as the IPU, preferring instead to talk among themselves. Such behaviour was simply rude, especially to parliamentarians who had come from afar to speak. It was not the way to win the respect needed to fight for democracy, which was clearly endangered.

Some of the best democratic innovations and original, new, freedom of information laws came from new democracies, from which the old democracies should therefore be seeking guidance for tackling problems shared by the whole world. All geopolitical competition must end. After eight years in office, she was about to leave the difficult challenges of life as a parliamentarian behind and would be pursuing her metier as poet and activist. She thanked all IPU Members for their help over the years and said that she would continue to support them in their quest for collective solutions to problems. All human beings were as one on the planet; without it, they were nothing.

Ms. M. del S. ESPINALES (Nicaragua) said that, under the Nicaraguan Constitution, liberty, justice, respect for the dignity of the human person, political, social and ethnic pluralism, recognition of different forms of property, free international cooperation and respect for the free self-determination of peoples were recognized as principles of the Nicaraguan nation. The country's political model was furthermore inspired by the values of Christianity, the ideals of socialism and the practices of solidarity, as well as by the values and ideals of Nicaraguan culture and identity. The policy of interculturalism in turn helped to preserve the country's multi-ethnic character and established guidelines to further strengthen that character, foster integration and contribute to the full exercise of individual and

collective rights of peoples through a model that also fostered inclusion and active participation in decision-making on an equal basis. The rights of indigenous peoples were explicitly recognized in the basic instruments of the majority of Latin American countries. As her country's Vice-President had said, it was imperative for people to abandon the hatred and resentment so harmful to societies and families and to open their hearts to God's love, which was the driver of change.

Mr. J. VIANA (Brazil) said that dialogue and coordination among parliaments worldwide were means for resolving global problems. Diversity was a vital source of inspiration among people, nurturing creativity and enabling the dissemination of knowledge. The movement of disadvantaged populations in search of better living conditions and the workforce needs of developed countries had combined to produce the rise in migration. While the presence of foreigners in previously closed communities was culturally enriching and promoted greater prosperity, it could also create difficulties and intolerance leading to nationalist and xenophobic reactions. Societies in decline produced new demands and realities to be addressed and it was the role of legislators, as the guarantors of peaceful and fruitful coexistence, to make legislative changes accordingly. It was their duty, moreover, to strengthen acceptance of difference and otherness.

Brazil was a multicultural nation where the inhabitants followed different religions and beliefs, many of them African in origin. Indeed, it was a melting pot of cultures living peacefully together in diversity and its people were uniquely tolerant. Thanks to the richness of the Brazilian cultural and ethnic diversity, moreover, they were a creative and vibrant force with a strong sense of identity. The challenge for Brazil was to ensure an education and opportunities for all in order to build a more equitable society and enhance the dignity of its citizens. It was making great progress on that score, with many more Brazilians newly included in the formal economy. In closing, he invited participants to attend the World Water Forum to be held in Brasilia in March 2018, noting that it was the largest international water-related event and would include a parliamentary session.

Mr. M. BOUVA (Suriname) said that Suriname was among the most diverse countries of the world, represented by several different ethnicities. Its diversity was reflected in the many languages, foods, religions and cultural activities and practices of the people. According to the UNESCO definition, culture was a complex of spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional characteristics featuring a society or a social group. It was not only art and literature but also a lifestyle, a fundamental human right, a value system, a tradition and a conviction, all of which were tools for social and economic development. The preservation of culture was as important as its development, which called for a solid culture policy aimed at achieving a peaceful society. Poverty reduction and community development were among the conditions needed for a human-oriented, inclusive and righteous development and nation formation, while integration with other policy areas was the key to success.

The Surinamese Constitution provided that economic, social and cultural development was freely determined by the nation and that all citizens should be involved in that development. The country's current development plan also covered matters of relevance to the culture policy, including the amendment of outdated laws, cultural exchange, research and promotion of diverse cultural expressions, and tourism. Parliament had furthermore approved the country's accession to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The different populations in Suriname lived together in peace and full mutual respect, which were fundamental to peace and prosperity. He hoped that Suriname would set an example for the world and that, as leaders of the community, parliamentarians would set their own example and take action.

A delegate from SOMALIA said that parliamentarians had a duty to resist any temptation towards intolerance, racism, xenophobia and discrimination in all its forms. The collective well-being depended on it. One of his continent's literary giants, Wole Soyinka, had described culture as a matrix of infinite possibilities and choices, adding that arguments and strategies could be extracted from the same cultural matrix for the degradation or ennoblement of the human species, for its enslavement or its liberation, and for the suppression or enhancement of its productive potential. The right choice must therefore be made to overcome the pressing challenges of the day, including terrorism, Islamophobia and inequality. Those challenges could be resolved only through dialogue, understanding and reconciliation as the time-tested methods of conflict resolution, on which the focus should be centred in order to achieve peace and pluralism. Violence and intolerance were no way to settle differences.

Somalia had recently made a remarkable recovery from years of conflict and stagnation but remained bedevilled by terrorism of the most vicious kind. Only a few days earlier, it had been the victim of one of the cruellest terrorist attacks in recent times, which had wrought death and devastation, killing and injuring many hundreds. The international community must stand united

against terrorism that was destroying so many innocent lives around the world. Terrorists had neither religion nor humanity and were using religion to justify their evil actions, which called for concerted efforts to eliminate their scourge. He expressed gratitude to all those countries that had come to the country's aid, with a specific mention to Djibouti and Turkey for their swift response.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC) said that he wished to share his sympathy with the people of Somalia after that recent tragedy. The current year marked the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of Protocols I and II additional to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949. Those two benchmark treaties together formed the foundations of the law of war and remained the cornerstone of protection and respect for human dignity in contemporary armed conflicts. Among the most widely ratified instruments in the world, they strengthened the protection of victims of both international and non-international armed conflicts by consolidating important limits on the way wars could be fought. Additional Protocol II was also the first-ever international treaty devoted exclusively to non-international armed conflict, still the world's most prominent form of conflict.

The anniversary was an important opportunity to reflect on the concrete value of the law of armed conflict and, most importantly, on ways to further strengthen compliance on the ground. In that regard, he thanked the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law for having organized a panel debate on that very topic. Humanitarian law was a critical tool to protect human life and dignity when armed conflict arose and action was needed to strengthen respect for the law, in which context parliamentarians played an essential role. They were uniquely placed to influence how international humanitarian law was promoted, strengthened and implemented by States. He drew attention to the IPU *Handbook on International Humanitarian Law* designed to assist them in that task, urging Members to make use of it and to seek support from the International Committee of the Red Cross as needed.

Mr. M. NAGAMOOTOO (Guyana) said that Guyana was a typical "salad bowl" of diverse ethnicities, cultures and traditions but still faced challenges from its colonial legacy of inter-ethnic strife and division. The current uneasy peace was threatened instead from the outside, however, by its Venezuelan neighbour, which had rejected a treaty settling a border dispute between the two countries. The controversy jeopardized development in Guyana and stability in the region - a declared "zone of peace". The closest of bonds between the peace-loving peoples of the two countries must therefore be forged.

The Guyanese Parliament was united in promoting the country's cultural pluralism through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue, in line with the national aspiration "one people, one nation, one destiny" and indeed the constitutional objective of inclusionary democracy. All fundamental human rights, including protection from discrimination on the ground of ethnicity, gender or religious or cultural differences were enshrined in the Constitution. The recent election to office of a broad multi-ethnic coalition symbolized a new beginning and brought hopes of further broadening the social base of governance. The country's faith-based and inter-ethnic social partners also added a valuable dimension through dialogue to the process of promoting cultural pluralism and social harmony. Among the positive values that they all emphasized were love and respect for all others, desire for peace and cooperation, and a quest for truth, justice and fair play.

Mr. C. KETTER (Australia) said that his country's new multicultural statement *Multicultural Australia: united, strong, successful* reaffirmed the Australian commitment to a culturally diverse, tolerant and harmonious society and outlined the shared values of Australians for respect, equality and freedom. The statement was the product of consultations with peak bodies and community groups, including inter-faith organizations. Australia recognized that ethnic community organisations needed practical and financial support in order to flourish. Throughout the world, there was a rich tapestry of religious expression. Interestingly, within the Christian tradition, the Russian Catholic Church formed the meeting point between the Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches. The expectation was that each tradition was entitled to consistent treatment by the State. Australia had benefited in so many ways from its ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, which had contributed skills and ideas towards building an outward-looking and dynamic nation that forged connections with the rest of the world. By sharing a common political and institutional structure without prejudice or disadvantage, a common, tolerant and prosperous future could be continued together.

Ms. C. SCHMIDT LIERMANN (Argentina) said that the people of Argentina were united in their diversity over the Malvinas issue, concerning which dialogue with the United Kingdom was the way forward to a solution. Dialogue was the best tool for addressing the crises emerging daily around the world. Dialogue called for tolerance and genuine respect for others in order to build trust through listening. In recognition of that fact, a new law was being drafted in Argentina to promote the right to

freedom of worship laid down in the Constitution. Agreements entered into must be changed as necessary. Over the next few years, Argentina would be hosting various international meetings and events. In the case of sports, women must be more adequately represented in its governing bodies in order to increase women's participation in sports activities, notably football.

Mr. Y. JABOUR (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, in recent years, his country had been victim to a series of efforts by significant world powers to change or undermine a process begun by the Venezuelan people. To that end, they had used political and ideological means, the media and even military threats. The Venezuelan people had nonetheless demonstrated dignity and a determination to get back on the democratic track and banish the imperialism that had reigned for so long. He expressed thanks for the solidarity expressed for and support received by the Venezuelan people in that struggle for freedom and self-determination, which they would see through to fruition.

Ms. J. MBAMBU MUGHOLE (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that her large and resources-rich country had suffered decades of war. Discussions about cultural pluralism were all very well, but it was a difficult matter when suffering was inflicted by incomers who had fled the Rwandan genocide and brought with them weapons, imposing a culture of violence. The massacre of peoples in the country's eastern provinces had continued ever since their arrival. Millions had been killed. The message must be sent to the international community that multinational corporations were furthermore encouraging the slaughter and exploiting the internal conflicts to sell weapons. Indeed, there were no weapons factories in her country. She called on all parliamentarians to help stop the atrocities inflicted on her countrywomen in particular, noting that the lack of international response to the situation was painful. As matters stood, the prospect of living in harmony with those responsible for the ongoing suffering was virtually non-existent.

Ms. M. MULARONI (San Marino) said that politicians had a responsibility to promote knowledge of cultures in order to build bridges of love, justice and forgiveness, and must not be afraid of dialogue. Dialogue among religions could spark action aimed at settling disputes and working for sustainable peace among States and peoples, even in areas with a history of wars and conflicts. The future consisted of living together, which demanded dialogue with people of difference on the understanding that they were not a threat to identity but rather a valuable source of enrichment. True dialogue among religions prompted no loss of their core features; rather, it promoted the rediscovery and enhancement of what united them while also preserving their diversities and specificities. Through education in addition, San Marino would continue to accept different cultures, spread mutual respect and offer strategies to young generations for achieving an inclusive life and recognizing others as an opportunity for growth.

A delegate from the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that rants about combating terrorism had come from quarters that in fact supported terrorism by providing arms, financing and military backing, as well as medical treatment for injured terrorists whose hands were stained with Syrian blood. He denounced the previous day's missile attacks on Syrian territory by the Zionist entity, which were not only indicative of the fear instilled in it by the victories of the Syrian Arab Army over various armed terrorist groups but also reaffirmed its organic link with those groups. The desperate attempts of that terrorist entity to cover up the defeat of terrorists on Syrian soil must cease. He called on his IPU colleagues to condemn the entity's outrageous aggression, which threatened security and peace in the region.

A delegate from INDIA, also speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegation from Pakistan had typically misused the IPU platform to pursue political objectives by making unjustified and unacceptable comments pertaining to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, which was an integral part of India. Hypocritical arguments of faith could not mask an agenda of violence and terrorism. Pakistan should instead look to its own people and those in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir who were waging a bitter and brave battle against daily abuse and torture. Religious and sectarian minorities continued to face discrimination, persecution and targeted attacks. Places of worship of minorities were regularly vandalized and destroyed. Draconian blasphemy laws were used against minorities with impunity. Pakistan would therefore do well to put its own house in order and end its incitement, financing and support of violence and terrorism in India and elsewhere. The august body of the IPU required no lessons in ethics or faith from a global epicentre of terrorism.

A delegate from the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, likewise speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegate from Italy had passed over the theme of the debate, preferring instead to focus on LGBTI rights in the Russian Federation. Had she opted for a non-politicized approach to the subject, she might have realized that the Russian Federation was not among the six countries of the world that imposed the death sentence as punishment for LGBTI individuals, nor among the 70 others where LGBTI relationships were a criminal offence. In the Russian Federation, the LGBTI community was not targeted by legislation or repressive measures. Any restraints were associated with the protection of human rights, in particular those of children and adolescents, and a ban on propaganda relating to sexual deviancy. Contrary to the picture portrayed in the Italian mass media, the Russian Federation was a free and happy country.

The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.35 a.m., with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-III/137/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT announced that the necessary elections to the Bureau of the Standing Committee had taken place at the Standing Committee's previous session and that no further elections were to be held at the current session. Members of the Bureau were reminded that they could recommend items for discussion at the Committee's next sitting and that they should do so by the end of that day. Moreover, any Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) could propose issues for the Committee to take up.

Briefing by the President of the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the 2012 IPU resolution on access to health, in particular that of women and children, had been influential. It underpinned a growing partnership between the IPU and the World Health Organization (WHO). A number of developments had occurred since 2012, most notably the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. The IPU Advisory Group on Health had therefore submitted an addendum to the resolution to bring it up to date. The Bureau would study the addendum the next day before recommending whether the Committee should endorse it.

Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy

The PRESIDENT said that 2017 marked the fifth anniversary of the IPU *Plan of action for gender-sensitive parliaments* and the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy. To mark that milestone, the IPU was launching a global campaign for stronger democracies. The campaign included an online petition, found at <https://campaign.ipu.org>, which delegates were encouraged to sign and share with their networks.

A video commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy was shown.

(a) Presentation of the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum by the co-Rapporteurs

(C-III/137/DR, C-III/137/DR-am and C-III/137/M)

Ms. S. DEV (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the appointment of three, rather than the usual two, co-Rapporteurs had proven effective. Together, they had been able to reach a consensus more quickly and to draft a more inclusive, all-encompassing resolution. There had been a great response to the draft; around 90 amendments had been proposed by more than 15 national delegations. What was clear was that there was broad agreement on key democratic values such as free and fair elections, gender equality, youth participation, rights of minorities and human rights.

Democracy was the world's favoured form of government. As a system, it was popular because it allowed people to live with dignity and have their fundamental rights and freedoms respected and promoted. The IPU advocated for transparency and promoted democracy and good governance. Democratic governance led to socioeconomic policy that broadened peoples' options in life, helped eradicate poverty and addressed the needs and aspirations of current and future generations.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, citing United Nations General Assembly Resolution 62/7, on democracy, said it was true that, while democracies shared common features, there was no one single model of democracy, nor did it belong to any specific country or region. In recognition of that fact, the resolution had been drafted in a spirit of consensus and compromise, taking into account the views of national delegations and reflecting the diverse cultural, ethnic and religious experiences of the *co-Rapporteurs* who hailed from different regions and backgrounds. The draft resolution had provided a timely opportunity to draw attention to democratic issues and raise awareness of the International Day of Democracy, which occurred every year on 15 September.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the draft resolution had emerged from a genuine spirit of international cooperation. The three *co-Rapporteurs* were from different regions and democratic models, but shared common democratic values. Alongside human dignity, democracy was one of the most important global values. Moreover, democracy was at the very heart of important human concerns, such as peace and security, sustainable development and the protection of human rights and the rights of peoples and minorities.

Democracy should be viewed as an ongoing process. It required constant maintenance, vigilance and openness to change, but would ultimately lead to more participatory societies and fewer authoritarian regimes. It signified more than just political power and institutions; it also meant public participation, openness, access to information, access to justice and respect for human rights. Democracy and the rule of law were two sides of the same coin, promoting transparency, an elected parliament and an independent judiciary. An absence of democracy tended to create conditions that were detrimental to peace, justice, development and freedom. Non-democratic States were all too often characterized by military rule, weak lower and middle classes, institutionalized corruption and restrictions on religious and other freedoms. Democracy was also linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, included targets on developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions and ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

(b) Debate on the draft resolution

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation), member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that it was impossible to achieve genuine democracy without the active participation of women in economic, political and social life. Women parliamentarians had welcomed and fully supported the draft resolution, which upheld key principles of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, including the equal participation of men and women in public and political life, a prerequisite for achieving true democracy. There was unity in diversity. The principles of democracy could only be fully attained by acknowledging each other's rights and freedoms and accepting the diversity of different cultures, languages and societies.

Mr. P. ARAMWATTNANONT (Thailand) said that, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Democracy, his Parliament wished to reaffirm its commitment to promoting the true spirit of democracy, which was based on good governance, human rights and accountability. Since its establishment in 2014, Thailand's National Legislative Assembly had adopted a raft of new legislation, particularly in the area of human rights. For instance, it had enacted laws on promoting gender equality, combating trafficking in persons and eliminating the practice of child labour. Members of parliament worked closely with the public, holding regular meetings, panel discussions and seminars with representatives of local communities. Activities had been carried out to promote democracy throughout the country. The Parliament of Thailand was mindful that inclusivity was the key to people-centred development and was committed to working towards the achievement of sustainable democracy, social harmony and stability. Following a public referendum in August 2016, a new Constitution had been adopted, paving the way for the forthcoming general elections. Efforts were being made to encourage the public, media and civil society to express their opinions through forums held across the country. Thailand stood ready to work closely with the IPU to promote mutual understanding between parliaments and foster peace, democracy and human rights in all corners of the globe.

Mr. M. TAŠNER VATOVEC (Slovenia), citing United Nations General Assembly Resolution 62/7, which enshrined democracy as a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, cultural, economic and social systems, said that there could be no democracy without an adequate system for promoting and protecting human rights. Slovenia was a young country founded on the principles of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and it was committed to spreading democratic values.

It was important to mainstream gender equality into all policies at all levels. Women were powerful drivers of development. Measures to empower women and eliminate discriminatory practices strengthened the capacities of communities to deal with modern-day challenges. Under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, democracy, good governance and the rule of law, as well as an enabling environment at national and international levels, were essential for achieving sustainable development and eradicating poverty. In fact, democracy was one of the most important weapons in the fight against poverty. While the IPU helped to foster and strengthen world democracy, it was for parliamentarians to introduce the necessary national measures and monitor their implementation. Democracy was a fragile, intangible thing to be cherished and safeguarded. Since it was based on the freely expressed will of the people, they should be involved more in decision-making.

Mr. A.Y. DESAI (India) said that democracy was the cornerstone of justice, peace and stability; the key to preserving diversity; and the means for reconciling diverse interests. It had enabled people to free themselves and achieve self-governance based on their own culture and traditions. Democracy was a shared common enterprise and yet also divergent and pluralistic, since it had evolved according to native needs and traditions. Every free society had its own democratic style that featured certain common elements. Democracy was defined by divergence, enriched by diversity and strengthened by pluralism. In an increasingly integrated world, democracy had to be understood in the context of interdependence and adapted to the changing global scenario. Youth migration was on the rise, ushering in a brave new world: a multicultural, multi-ethnic and multilingual society.

India had a long tradition of diversity, of people of different faiths, cultures and traditions living together in harmony. The Constitution recognized the principle of cultural and religious diversity, and the country's strength lay in its composite culture. India welcomed forums such as the IPU as avenues for sharing experiences and overcoming common challenges. Its Member Parliaments hailed from the largest and smallest, richest and poorest, of nations. Although they may be at various stages of economic development, they supported each other in pursuit of the shared goals of democracy and development. Some countries were confronted with common challenges such as food security, education and health care. Collective initiatives would help speed progress in those and other areas.

Mr. A. KONUROV (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan was making strides towards greater transparency and public engagement and participation. Constitutional reforms in March 2017 had been a step towards enhancing democracy. Presidential powers had been transferred to the Government and the role of parliament strengthened.

More than 130 nations were living in peace and friendship, which highlighted the value of dialogue and mutual understanding. Kazakhstan had become a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on 1 January 2017 and was taking action on issues such as combating terrorism and ensuring basic security needs. In that spirit, the country had recently hosted the sixth round of negotiations on resolving the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic. The draft resolution would thus be a useful tool in promoting democracy and the rule of law around the world.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden) said that, in the 20 years since the Universal Declaration on Democracy had been adopted, the world seemed more polarized than ever. There were tensions not only between countries but also between different groups within societies. It was important to protect the common ground that had been reached since the end of the Second World War and to build an established international system with common rules and values. Her delegation would present amendments to, among others, preambular paragraph 6 of the draft resolution during the drafting exercise in plenary.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the Universal Declaration on Democracy had been adopted 20 years ago on the basis that democracy was a common goal for all, irrespective of different cultural, historical, political, social and economic contexts. And yet, non-democratic countries continued to exist. Those systems undermined the right of their people to determine their own future; instead, their leaders consolidated power by setting up largely ceremonial institutions. In the years since the Islamic Revolution had occurred in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the general public had been able to vote, without discrimination, in more than 40 different elections, including presidential elections.

A dual approach was being witnessed in the current political arena. In the United States of America, President Trump had adopted a questionable attitude, supporting countries that had no respect for human rights, while at the same time pressurizing the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had the best democratic system in the region. The United States called itself a democracy, while undermining the concept elsewhere.

Mr. S. RYBAKOV (Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States - IPA CIS) said that the United Nations had more than 100 international days on its calendar, including the International Day of Peace and World Migratory Bird Day. There was, however, no international day of parliamentarism. In view of the current tensions being felt in the international arena, the IPA CIS had proposed establishing 30 June, the date on which the IPU had been created in 1889, as an international day of parliamentarism. Doing so would provide a means for educating people about the activities of parliamentarians and parliaments all over the world. It would also increase the visibility of the IPU and help strengthen inter-parliamentarism.

Mr. K. DARWISH (Egypt) said that it was a source of pride to Egypt that the Universal Declaration on Democracy had been adopted 20 years previously in Cairo. His country reaffirmed its commitment to democracy and human rights and to protecting peaceful citizens in their pursuit of stable and prosperous lives. It was also committed to promoting the role of women and increasing women's representation in public and political life. In that regard, the proportion of women parliamentarians had reached 15 per cent for the first time in the country's history. It was hoped that further progress would soon be made. Youth and persons with disabilities were also represented in parliament.

The religious and racial discrimination currently being witnessed around the world could be used to breed disharmony. Diversity could, however, be used to find common ground and share knowledge and expertise with a view to spreading democracy, promoting the rule of law and safeguarding human rights.

Lord DHOLAKIA (United Kingdom) said that he welcomed the issues that the draft resolution and current debate had brought to light. While democracy was the favoured form of government worldwide, it was important to define democratic values. One State should not impose its democratic values on another; instead, developed nations should assist developing countries while respecting their differences. The rights and freedoms of the millions of people who were living outside their homelands should be considered. Citizenship signified more than just the right to remain in a country. It conferred the rights contained in international instruments such as the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, among others, to guarantee the right to life, the right to an adequate environment and the right to democracy. Democracy and the rule of law went hand in hand; there was not one without the other. The impact of the digital revolution, and its implications for democracy, should also be assessed.

Mr. Z. SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the Balfour Declaration issued by the United Kingdom in 1917 was at the root of all the calamities that subsequently befell Palestine. It had contributed to displacing Palestinians from their homeland, leaving more than 50 per cent of the population living in internal or external refugee camps. Instead of issuing an apology, the United Kingdom was commemorating the 100th anniversary of that document. Had Palestine been a European nation, its 50-year occupation would likely not have been tolerated. There could be no democracy while there was occupation, since it was impossible for occupying forces to be democratic. With that in mind, the IPU should take the stance adopted by the United Nations, which had called for the establishment of an independent State of Palestine within the framework of the two-State solution.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that God had created humankind equal. Diverse cultures and civilizations were a source of richness and part of His wisdom. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to encourage diversity in their societies and to support policies to strengthen civil society and foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In Kuwait, respect for diversity, plurality and human rights had been a core principle for 50 years. While it was an emerging country, it had a long track record of democracy in the Middle East. Kuwait had committed to further enhancing democracy and respect for human rights. The IPU Assembly was a useful forum for sharing knowledge and experience in that regard.

Mr. P. CHAKONA (Zimbabwe) said that tolerance, inclusiveness, accountability and transparency were the essential components of a successful democracy. Parliaments were the national institutions best placed to protect and promote democracy and prevent human rights violations. Their legislative functions enabled them to adopt human-rights-related laws to promote the

rights of minorities, foster gender equality and ensure the transparent use of natural resources. Human rights and fundamental freedoms were enshrined in various United Nations conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, and underpinned meaningful democracy. Parliamentarians had a responsibility to enhance national democracy and ensure that their governments respected the fundamental human rights of citizens, in general, and of minority groups, persons with disabilities, orphans and older persons, in particular.

National parliaments and regional frameworks should enact and monitor the implementation of laws to recognize minorities and guarantee their rights, promote multicultural and intercultural education and include minorities in international development. Parliaments should likewise amend or repeal laws, policies and practices that discriminated against women and girls and prevented the full realization of their rights and freedoms. Temporary special measures, such as quotas and affirmative action, should be used to increase women's political and economic participation. Specific funding should be allocated to train women for political leadership and activism and to meet gender quotas. In post-conflict scenarios, a culture of democracy and women's inclusion should be built by ensuring that confidence- and peacebuilding processes were gender responsive. Women's voices should be heard – and heeded – at the negotiating table and the gender perspective should be incorporated in all peace-building efforts, in line with United Nations Security Council resolution No. 1325 (2000), on women and peace and security.

Ms. A. ANGGRAINI (Indonesia), citing Article 7 of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, said that democracy was founded on the primacy of the law and the exercise of human rights. Indonesia had embraced that principle through constitutional reforms aimed at strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms. That said, human rights and fundamental freedoms were not absolute; the rights of others should also be respected, which was why the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights provided for certain exceptions.

There was no one-size-fits-all form of democracy; democracy should be home-grown. And yet, in every democracy, people should uphold the rule of law to protect human rights and the rights of individuals, regardless of their gender, age, ethnicity or religion. Political, military or economic power must not be used to oppress, persecute or suppress religious or ethnic groups.

Ms. F. DIB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that adequate infrastructure and informed citizens were crucial to the achievement of democracy. It was important to educate people and develop their capacities from an early age. A framework of laws on basic rights, access to justice, non-discrimination and acceptance of cultural difference was also necessary. The role of parliamentarians was not only to adopt bills but also to initiate legislative proposals and oversee the implementation of laws.

The current situation in her country was testament to the fact that a successful democracy was built on peace, security and stability, not on war and destruction. The Syrian Arab Republic had been a country in which cultural, economic, religious and social diversity were respected. Women had enjoyed equal rights with men and had been able to participate fully in public and political life. It was now witnessing interventions that aimed to divide it along racial and religious lines, undermine its resources and capabilities and destroy its cities. The country's suffering was being compounded by medical and economic embargos, while armed groups were being supported in their aims to further destroy it. Democracy should not be reserved for the few: there should be justice for all countries, without discrimination.

Ms. S. KOUTRA-KOUKOUA (Cyprus) said that democracy was an ancient political system that had endured owing to its core values: basic human rights, citizen participation, transparency, accountability and justice. Nowadays, globalization and technological advances had brought the world closer together and allowed ideas to spread. Beliefs and values could now be shared on a global scale.

In the past 20 years, great strides had been made in places where core democratic values and basic human rights had been absent. However, sweeping democratic efforts aimed at boosting citizens' quality of life had not always resulted in freedom of speech, fair elections and fair trials. Other States had used democracy gaps as a pretext for interfering, invading, conquering and controlling; or for exploiting the natural resources of a conquered country, condemning its citizens to hunger and abject poverty. Those States were responsible for the thousands of refugees who had died in the minefields, seas and deserts. They championed refugees' rights one day; the next, they raised walls on their borders. They turned a blind eye to far-right organizations, which spouted abuse and even killed refugees who were simply trying to reach safety.

A collective consensus was being built to justify the sacrificing of rights and freedoms on the altar of security concerns. Protecting personal data from mass collection and safeguarding privacy and communication were elements necessary to democracy and human dignity. On the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, parliamentarians must defend the true concept of democracy. They must spread democratic values and principles by welcoming diversity and change, embracing multiculturalism and rejecting seclusion.

Mr. A. NIYONGABO (Burundi) said it was true that the national specifics and characteristics of democracy should be considered. In Burundi, which had experienced ethnic conflicts, the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement had taken issues of ethnicity and gender into account. Burundi had three ethnic groups. Quotas for their representation in political and public life, including in parliament and the police, were enshrined in the Constitution. Similarly, the minimum threshold for women's representation in parliamentary institutions was 30 per cent. In 2015, there had been an attempted coup d'état. However, democracy had been rescued and re-established. Government institutions were once again working to combat poverty and promote the economic development of the country with support from the international community.

Mr. S. MAHMOOD (Pakistan) said that human rights were universal, inalienable, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated. The Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed fundamental rights for all persons, without discrimination, and placed a special emphasis on creating an inclusive society. Pakistan had made significant progress in the field of human rights. It had, for example, a fully functioning national human rights institution, as well as national commissions for minorities and for women. An independent judiciary, free press and vibrant civil society provided additional safeguards for the protection of human rights.

Human rights currently faced multiple and complex challenges around the world. Many could be overcome through the principles of universality, transparency and non-discrimination. As parliamentarians, they must avoid double standards. They had a responsibility to speak out when States, including their own, undermined the principles of democracy and human rights. When States were restricting people's human rights, as was happening in Myanmar, in Palestine and in Kashmir, parliamentarians had a duty to rise to the challenge and speak out in their defence. They could not sit idly by merely paying lip service to those principles.

Mr. M.D. SOW (Guinea) said that it was important to ensure free, fair and transparent elections. There was little point talking about peace or the Sustainable Development Goals if a country's citizens did not recognize themselves in their political leaders. The IPU should take on a more visible role in countries where human rights were being violated, since prevention was better than cure.

International observers played an important role in elections, since their reports could influence a country's future democracy. The absence of free and regular elections gave rise to conflict and the mass displacement of people. With regular, inclusive and fair elections, progress in other areas would follow.

Mr. R.S. KARPAL SINGH (Malaysia), condemning the plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar, said that, in any democracy, there should be respect for the principles of an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, and the rule of law. In Malaysia, there had been an erosion of basic democratic values, as seen in the use of draconian laws to stifle dissent, silence government critics and curtail other freedoms. Parliamentarians had been arrested for participating in protests calling for free and fair elections. A member of parliament invited to attend the IPU Assembly had himself been charged. The independence of the judiciary was also in doubt following a spate of politically motivated arrests. It was hoped that the IPU would condemn such actions.

Racial intolerance had reared its ugly head in multicultural Malaysia. A small minority of religious extremists had been rebuked by the monarchy but not by the State authorities. The lack of political will to end intolerance must be addressed. Moderation, transparency, tolerance, and freedom of thought and expression should be present in any democracy and not compromised by any government. Member Parliaments of the IPU must steadfastly defend those universal values.

Ms. A. GERKENS (Netherlands) said the Netherlands recognized that democracy was diverse. While models of democracy should not be imposed, the principles for building a democratic state should be strengthened. The fact that parliamentarians from around the world could gather together to finalize a text like the draft resolution on sharing diversity was proof of the importance of democracy. In reaffirming the principles of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, they had an opportunity to establish a worldwide definition of the conditions required to establish a sustainable democratic environment. The resolution was an important tool to which all current and future Member Parliaments could refer in their efforts to establish democratic societies. It could become the starting point for enhancing democracies all over the world.

Mr. A. ATICI (Turkey) said that sharing in diversity meant accepting, rather than struggling against, characteristics that were not one's own to choose. Ethnicity or religion, for example, were often inherited from one's parents and were hard, even impossible, to change. True democracy involved trying to understand each other.

Those who used democracy for their own ends were a threat to its survival. They viewed democracy as a form of transport, a way of getting them to a specific destination before disembarking. Those attempting to bring democracy to another nation might simply wish to gain access to its natural resources. When democracy was recognized by all people, it would be able to promote a more humanitarian way of living. Fake democracy, however, was a powerful weapon that could destroy humanity.

Mr. W. AYENEW (Ethiopia) said that promoting democracy and the rule of law was fundamental for enhancing good governance and development. Ethiopia was a democratic, federal and diverse country. It had 76 different ethnic groups that were represented in both the upper and lower houses of the parliament. The rights and values of its ethnic groups were enshrined in the Constitution and other laws, thus preserving the strength and unity of the nation.

Empowering women and youth was a means of rejuvenating democracy. In Ethiopia, priority had been placed on promoting women's and youth participation in economic and political life. Women's representation in parliament had reached 38 per cent and work would continue towards achieving gender parity.

Mr. R. MARTÍNEZ HUELMO (Uruguay), reaffirming his country's commitment to the Universal Declaration on Democracy on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, said that his country had a long and enviable tradition of democracy. Between 1973 and 1985, however, it had gone through a harsh civil-military dictatorship. Prior to the 1973 coup d'état, a debate on parliament's value to democracy had been held. Some had argued that parliament was an inherent characteristic of a democracy. Lo and behold, the dictatorship's first action had been to dissolve the parliament.

It was clear that democracy could not exist without a strong parliament elected through free and fair elections that provided guarantees for all persons, in particular those from minority groups. In 1985, Uruguay had once again resumed its democratic traditions and implemented a new generation of laws and policies for social and political inclusion. Efforts were being made to achieve gender parity in parliament. It was going to take time, but women were active in society and there had been broad agreement from all political parties across the spectrum.

Mr. Z. HEMSY (Jordan), pointing out that women had won 20 per cent of elected posts during his country's 2017 elections, said that Jordan firmly believed in human rights and democracy. In that spirit, it had been proud to host 1.2 million Syrian refugees, providing them with access to education and the necessary basic services to live with dignity. The lack of stability and security in the Middle East, however, had given rise to terrorist groups in the region, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). In addition, as long as the issue of Palestine remained unresolved, the principle of democratic pluralism would always be called into question and the region would never enjoy stability and security.

Mr. A. SAIDOV (Uzbekistan) said that the draft resolution could be interpreted as a plan of action for implementing the Universal Declaration on Democracy adopted 20 years previously. One of the resolution's main thrusts was that the State should serve the people. It was not the people who should serve the State. The three pillars of peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights were also covered in the text.

In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, it was important to enhance inter-parliamentary dialogue and strengthen the culture of democracy. Democracy was inseparable from the principles of the major international human rights conventions. However, democracy was not born in the West; instead, it was an international value that guaranteed the sovereign right of States to freely choose their own development path based on the will of the people. It was important to develop democracy progress indicators, since each State was unique and had its own experience of democratic development. Democracy should be based on the cultural, historical and religious traditions of a country. It was necessary to strike a balance between the universal principles of democracy and the specific democratic systems of different States.

Ms. J. ALSAMMAK (Bahrain) said that her country had taken a step closer to a comprehensive system of democracy and respect for human rights. The principle of democracy had been enshrined in the Constitution. Traditions were changing in Bahrain: discriminatory practices against women were gradually being eliminated and governance was being strengthened. There was a separation of power

between the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, which ensured an independent judiciary and provided for the protection of human rights. Parliamentarians played an oversight role in respect of judicial bodies and ensured that legislation took human rights and democracy into account.

Mr. B.V. NEATOBEL (Chad) said that, at the same time as commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, parliamentarians should recall the role they played in developing democracy. Diversity was the building block of nations where individual rights and freedoms were fully respected. Diversity involved different ways of thinking and acting, but without discriminating. An inclusive democracy must enable all citizens to live with dignity. In Chad, people needed to feel that they were free and that their diversity was respected in the country's social, economic, political and cultural development.

Mr. A.A. OKOUNLOLA (Benin), reaffirming his country's commitment to the development of world democracy and respect for human rights, said that Benin had been one of the first countries in Western Africa to introduce a democratic system of governance, following a national conference in 1990. Since then, free and transparent elections had been held and the country's democratic institutions were well established. Concerted efforts now needed to be made towards achieving gender equality, since women represented only 10 per cent of parliamentarians. To that end, a law was being drafted to increase women's representation to 30 per cent in the forthcoming elections in 2019.

Ms. S. RADRODRO (Fiji) said that for a small, developing democracy like Fiji, which had been heavily influenced by military coups, it was vital that the pillars of democracy, such as an independent judiciary, free and fair elections, free media, an independent parliament, and the protection of human rights, were upheld. In view of its upcoming 2018 elections, Fiji was committed to achieving genuine democracy, including through the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal No. 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Mr. S. AL-GBURI (Iraq) said that religious diversity and the balance of power were respected in Iraq, which was home to many minorities. Free and fair elections had been held and women accounted for 25 per cent of all parliamentarians. While democracy and human rights were valued concepts, the country had suffered war and conflict at the hands of ISIL, which had occupied more than a third of Iraqi territory. Although much of that land had now been liberated, ISIL had destroyed the historical heritage of Mosul and committed many crimes against the Iraqi people. The actions of ISIL had resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, left many orphaned children and destroyed many homes. International organizations and the United Nations Security Council must adopt resolutions condemning those acts. Concerted action must be taken to strengthen democracy in Iraq and elsewhere, not just talked about at international conferences.

Mr. A. ADLERCREUTZ (Finland) said that much had been said about the relativity of democracy. While it was true that democracy took many forms, its basic values could not be in dispute. Democracy must be based on all persons having equal opportunities, rights and responsibilities, irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation or religion. Democracy and stability went hand in hand; recent setbacks in that regard had given cause for concern. In Turkey, press freedoms and, by degrees, democracy were being circumvented; in Myanmar, the Rohingya were being persecuted; and in Venezuela, the failure of democracy and rising authoritarianism were fast destroying the very foundations of a functioning society. As the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had said, war and destruction did not lead to democracy. On the flip side, preventing peoples' voices from being heard led to unrest. Suppression led to war and destruction. Democracy was the key to stability and its values were absolute, not relative.

Mr. K.D. APEVON (Togo) said that, although there was no single model of democracy, there must still be universally recognized democratic rules and principles. If not, leaders in some countries would simply subvert democracy for their own ends. In the absence of a specific model, improperly organized and fraudulent elections were held in many countries, particularly in Africa. As a result, those in power were able to modify the rules and laws or oppress minority groups, leading to potentially incendiary situations. Although steps were generally taken to restore harmony, the IPU, as a leading international organization, should be able to anticipate such situations and prevent their occurrence. The holding of democratic elections would ensure that peace reigned in Africa.

Ms. S. KAMRAN (Pakistan) said that respect for human rights and regular and genuine elections were core elements of democracy. Democratic governance and human rights were critical to sustainable development and lasting peace. The absence of strong democratic institutions led to corruption and weak rule of law. Measures to strengthen democracy should include efforts to educate society about democratic values. For that reason, Pakistan had recently adopted a resolution to make democratic civic education a mandatory part of the school curriculum.

The world had gone full circle in the 20 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy. In the past, there had been calls for democratic regimes to be established; now, democratic institutions were being condemned for violating human rights. Recent examples included the plight of 1.2 million Rohingya Muslims, the world's largest stateless community. They were being persecuted by the democratic Government of Myanmar, which was headed by Aung San Suu Kyi, winner of a Nobel Peace Prize for services to democracy and human rights. Democratic principles were being unevenly applied in Palestine and in Kashmir. Military interventions on the basis of humanitarian grounds must be discouraged, since they led to unrest, conflict and civil war, as seen in the case of Libya. The role of humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) must be enhanced to strengthen democracy across the globe.

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the richness of the debate was testament to the desire among parliamentarians to uphold democratic principles and strengthen democratic institutions. The *co-Rapporteurs* would carefully consider all the proposed amendments and the statements made during the debate. Every effort would be made to incorporate those perspectives, in an unbiased and collaborative manner, into the final text.

The PRESIDENT, thanking the speakers for their valuable contributions, said that the Committee would meet to draft the resolution in plenary that afternoon.

The sitting rose at 12 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m., with Ms. B. Tshireletso (Botswana), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT recalled that, at the 136th Assembly in Bangladesh, the Eurasia Group had proposed that its vacant seat on the Bureau should be taken up by a delegate of Armenia. The Standing Committee had agreed in principle. Ms. S. Isayan (Armenia) had now been confirmed as the Eurasia Group's nominated candidate. The President took it that the Committee wished to approve that nomination.

The nomination was approved.

Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy

(c) Drafting and adoption of the draft resolution in plenary (C-III/137/DR and C-III/137/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the drafting in plenary had been undertaken in a cooperative atmosphere. A sizeable number of the proposed amendments had been debated and adopted into the text of the resolution.

Ms. S. DEV (India), *co-Rapporteur*, said that it had been an enriching first experience as a *co-Rapporteur*. Both the debate and the drafting exercise in plenary had shown that parliamentarians, irrespective of party and political affiliations, agreed that democracy was a shared ideal, albeit one that did not necessarily take the same form in every country. They had sometimes disagreed on how best to convey their message, but not on its substance. Although 20 years had passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Democracy, it remained as relevant as ever. In addition to incorporating many of the proposed amendments to the resolution, efforts had also been made to reflect new developments, in particular the rise of the digital world, its virtues, its dangers and its impact on the sharing of information and ideas. The final version of the resolution thus incorporated the established values of, and the emerging challenges to, democracy.

Mr. N. SCHRIJVER (Netherlands), *co-Rapporteur*, pointed out that the co-Rapporteurs proposed to make two minor amendments to the final version of the resolution. The wording in operative paragraph 1 should be amended slightly to bring it into line with United Nations Resolution 62/7, on promoting and consolidating new or restored democracies. In a similar vein, operative paragraph 2 should be amended to harmonize it with United Nations terminology on minorities. The changes did not alter the substance of those paragraphs.

The Committee approved the amendments to the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to decide whether to adopt the draft resolution on *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*, as amended.

The draft resolution, as a whole, as amended, was adopted by acclamation.

(d) Appointment of a rapporteur to the 137th IPU Assembly

The Committee decided to appoint Mr. I. Umakhanov (Russian Federation), co-Rapporteur of the resolution, as Rapporteur to the 137th Assembly.

Preparations for future Assemblies

(a) Subject of the next resolution to be prepared by the Committee

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had considered three proposals for the subject of the next resolution submitted by Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic and Morocco. After a full and frank exchange of views, the Bureau had decided to bring two of the proposals to the Committee, namely *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*, proposed by Morocco; and *The right of citizens to medication and treatment and the negative effects of their absence*, submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic. She invited the delegates of the relevant countries to present their proposals.

Mr. A. TOUIZI (Morocco) said that migration represented a challenge for countries of origin, transit and destination. While there had been a rise in xenophobia in Europe as a result of migration, the wars in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq only increased migratory flows. Moreover, climate change, a global issue that was already taking its toll on developing countries, was set to become a major migratory factor. In that light, the IPU should take a stance and, in cooperation with the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration, give the issue the importance and visibility it deserved. A study of migratory flow trends should also be undertaken ahead of the forthcoming Assembly.

Ms. F. DIB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that disease led to hardship and suffering. One's health was a source of wealth, yet illness was not always appreciated as a humanitarian need. Treatment for some health conditions was so expensive that individuals were unable to afford it. In fact, many people died of curable diseases simply because they could not afford the necessary medication. Monopolies were being created in the medicine market, which made some medicines affordable and others prohibitively expensive. As a result, there was a risk that, when epidemics occurred, governments would not have the means to pay for the necessary medications or vaccinations. Parliamentarians must push for legislation to protect citizens' right to medication, treatment and general humanitarian care.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to decide by a vote on the subject of the next resolution.

The Committee decided by 21 votes to 16 to accept the proposal of Morocco: "Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration".

The PRESIDENT said that, in line with usual practice, the Committee would debate the subject during the 138th Assembly, in March 2018, and draft the resolution at the 139th Assembly, in October 2018. One rapporteur would come from Morocco. A second rapporteur should be identified by the IPU President, in accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees. Their names would be provided later.

It was so decided.

(b) Committee agenda at the 138th IPU Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had also considered a proposal by Belgium for a panel debate to be held during the 138th IPU Assembly, entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI*. After a full and frank discussion, the Bureau had decided to recommend this proposal to the Committee. While recognizing that there were strong views on the subject, all issues relating to democracy and human rights fell within the Committee's purview. No topic should be off limits, and all opinions would be welcome. The panel debate was not intended to lead to a resolution or outcome document. It would, however, serve to highlight the situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) in general, and encourage delegates to find out how those persons were treated in their own countries.

The representative of BELGIUM, presenting the proposal, said that paragraph 4 of the IPU Quebec City Declaration of 2012 asserted that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was unacceptable. Sexual orientation and gender identities that deviated from the heterosexual norm were considered morally reprehensible in some countries and by certain religions. Even so, an individual's sexual orientation or identity should not be a reason to criminalize or discriminate against them, especially in areas that bore no relation, such as housing, access to health services or employment. The mere fact of being gay or transsexual should not be justification for harassment, torture, or worse. LGBTI persons were human beings and were entitled to the same basic human rights as everyone else.

The representative of NETHERLANDS seconded the proposal and said it was important to uphold the principle that all human beings were equal.

The representative of CANADA welcomed the proposal and said that the LGBTI community was a minority that had no voice. As parliamentarians, it was their responsibility to stand up and defend them. The title of the theme should be amended to include the concepts of gender identity and expression.

The representative of the UNITED KINGDOM said that he had served as an openly gay parliamentarian for 25 years. While appreciating that, for some, the issue would be a difficult one, there was no country on earth where gay people did not exist. In some places, however, they not only faced discrimination but lived in fear for their lives, simply because of their sexual orientation or identity.

The representative of ITALY, expressing support for the amendment proposed by the Canadian delegation, said that there were practical and immediate consequences of such discrimination. The Advisory Group on Health had, for example, visited an excellent HIV/AIDS centre during their time in St. Petersburg. It had transpired, however, that some people felt unable to make use of its services for fear of being recognized as being gay, such was the stigma associated with their sexual orientation.

The representative of GERMANY said that her delegation strongly supported the proposed theme, since it was an important topic that affected people all over the world.

The representative of CUBA, supporting the proposed theme, said that if parliamentarians agreed that discrimination should be opposed, they should be able to tackle the issue in all its manifestations.

The representative of SAN MARINO said that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was unacceptable in 2017. A debate on the topic would serve to demonstrate how democracy must continue to develop in line with the changing society.

The representative of MALAYSIA said that he supported the motion, since taboos prevailed in areas around the world where such forums for debate did not exist. The discussion would therefore be a step towards transforming social norms and tackling the ignorance that surrounded the issue.

The representative of the RUSSIAN FEDERATION, in response to the representative of Italy, pointed out that the services offered by HIV/AIDS centres and other health-care centres in her country were available to all persons, without discrimination.

The representative of SWEDEN said that it was important to show that parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, were able to discuss all the various types of discrimination that people faced.

The PRESIDENT invited the Committee to approve the proposal for a debate with the title as amended: *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI.*

It was so decided.

Any other business

The PRESIDENT invited Mr. H. Millat (Bangladesh), Chair of the Advisory Group on Health, to present the Group's proposed addendum to the 2012 IPU resolution entitled *Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children.*

Mr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh), Chair of the Advisory Group on Health, said that the 2012 IPU resolution on access to health was an important instrument that had affirmed health as a basic human right, with a focus on women and children, and had inspired many parliaments to take action. Since its adoption in 2012, however, there had been a number of developments in the international arena, including the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030). The IPU Strategy (2017-2021) also included objectives regarding women's, children's and adolescents' health. In order to ensure the continuing relevance of the 2012 IPU resolution, the Advisory Group on Health had taken the initiative to formulate an addendum to the resolution, with input from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), to reflect the latest global developments.

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had decided to recommend that the Committee should endorse the addendum to the resolution.

The representative of CYPRUS welcomed the idea of reviewing resolutions to take account of new developments. While agreeing with the overall aim of the resolution, the text made only a general reference to the right to reproductive services. The time had come for the IPU to speak more clearly about the issue of abortion, an issue that affected women around the world.

Mr. H. MILLAT (Bangladesh) said that, while abortion was not directly mentioned in the addendum, access to sexual and reproductive health services were important dimensions of access to health, and would continue to be a subject for discussion within the Advisory Group.

The Committee endorsed the addendum to the 2012 IPU resolution.

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

SITTING OF TUESDAY, 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 9.20 a.m., with Ms. L. Rojas Hernández (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-I/137/A.1.rev)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had two vacant posts. The Asia-Pacific Group wished to nominate Mr. H.B. Kambhampati (India) to finish the mandate of another Indian delegate who had been nominated Minister. The Twelve Plus Group wished to nominate Ms. L.I. Ceritoglu Kurt (Turkey).

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that there had been several major developments in the area of peace and international security since the Committee's previous session in Bangladesh. First, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons had been adopted on 7 July 2017 and opened for signature on 20 September 2017. Fifty countries must ratify it before it would enter into force; so far, just three States had done so. Second, consultations had begun on the United Nations Secretary-General's proposed reforms of that organization. The proposals included plans to prioritize conflict prevention, on the rationale that the best way to prevent crises was through sustainable and inclusive development. Third, a forthcoming high-level event on sustaining peace was to take place in April 2018 at the United Nations in New York. It was hoped that the Committee's draft resolution *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*, set to be adopted in March 2018, would serve as a formal contribution to the United Nations sustaining peace processes. Lastly, in her capacity as a representative of the IPU, she was to attend Geneva Peace Week 2017 in November. Topics on the agenda included conflict prevention, gender violence, social cohesion and capacity building.

Panel discussion on *The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations*

The PRESIDENT, introducing the panel discussion, said that the United Nations did not have its own army; instead, it relied on the contributions of Member States. Deployments should be in line with international rules and principles, including those laid down in the IPU handbook entitled *Parliamentary oversight of the security sector: Principles, mechanisms and practices* (2003). Although, from a good-governance perspective, parliaments should be able to participate in the decision to send armed forces abroad and be able to monitor their performance, in practice that was not always the case.

Mr. J. BORN (Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces - DCAF), *panellist*, said that, with 62 member States, his organization's remit was to promote good governance of the security sector, a sector that comprised not only the armed forces but also the police, security services, private security firms and peacekeeping troops. The concept of peacekeeping was evolving. Increasingly, peacekeepers were being deployed as a preventive measure, rather than after the damage had already been done. Accordingly, peacekeeping did not only involve armed troops but also civilians and police, who were an important element of nation building and dialogue. In some cases, however, peacekeepers had violated the rights of those they had been sent to protect, including through sexual abuse and exploitation. Parliaments had an important role to play in preventing impunity and monitoring troops' behaviour abroad. Many of the delegates present were from countries whose troops were permanently involved in United Nations integrated missions. However, governments – not parliaments – were

represented at the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. In fact, only one parliament in the world had any real, albeit limited, power concerning troop deployments: the European Parliament. That said, although troop deployments were categorized as a national security issue, meaning that some information was classified, parliamentary monitoring and oversight were essential.

There were currently 15 United Nations peacekeeping operations involving police, civilian and military personnel. The top troop-contributing countries were Ethiopia, Bangladesh and India; some countries were very active, others less so. Parliaments could play a role in that respect, asking why their governments were not active and whether they could, or should, do more. The European Union also had a number of ongoing military and civil peacekeeping missions, involving troops from its member States, as did the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

His organization's research had revealed that parliaments often lacked the constitutional authority necessary for involvement in troop deployments abroad. Even where good constitutional frameworks existed, parliaments might not have the resources, funding or expertise to deal with the international framework, oversee military and security issues or visit troops abroad. By their nature, parliaments were often ill-equipped for the rapid decision-making that such urgent situations required, although some parliaments had developed solutions in that regard. Parliamentarians had generic functions that should be applied to give them a say in decisions on troop deployments. For instance, they could use their legislative functions to adopt framework legislation regulating the deployment of troops or to approve specific laws setting the mandate and rationale for individual missions. Parliamentary approval and oversight of the national budget offered another avenue for intervention, since additional budgetary provision was sometimes required for emergency operations. In fact, in many States, budgetary oversight was the entry point for parliament to have a say on deployments. In some countries, parliamentarians could even approve or reject peace missions and arrange hearings with high-level military commanders. It was important to ensure, however, that parliamentary involvement did not simply end once a peacekeeping operation had been approved – monitoring and oversight were essential after troops had been deployed.

As regards international decision-making, there were several opportunities for parliaments to enter into the discussions on peacekeeping operations. In the first, and strongest, case, parliaments had to give approval ahead of any decision of the United Nations Security Council or other international organisation. After that point, governments would already be committed, so any subsequent intervention would be too late to exert any real influence. In the second case, parliaments gave their approval after an international decision had been made but before any national decision-making on troop deployment had occurred. In the third case, parliament played a merely consultative role. It might be informed before or after deployment but played no part in the decision-making process, being limited instead to a debate and the monitoring and oversight of troops. In the final case, parliaments were not involved in the process at all, with all decisions being taken by the executive.

There were a number of good parliamentary practices with regard to troop deployment. For example, parliaments could enact special legislation, either as a framework law governing troop deployment, in general, or as a specific law regulating a particular peacekeeping mission. Other examples included: agreeing that only deployments below a certain threshold would be exempted from parliamentary approval; ensuring that the executive gave regular status reports to parliament or to a specific select committee, behind closed doors; and establishing a maximum duration for deployments, which meant that if troops needed to stay on a mission for longer, the Government would have to begin the approval process again.

Mr. B. PATIL (India), describing the contribution of Indian peacekeeping forces to peace missions around the world, said that India ranked among the leading troop-contributing countries. The security situation was challenging and demand for peacekeeping was growing. Increasingly, peacekeepers were called upon not only to maintain peace but also to address complex, myriad, challenges such as assisting in the political process, reforming the justice system, training police officers, resettling internally displaced persons (IDPs) and disarming and reintegrating former combatants. In that light, current approaches and resources were inadequate. To improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, troop-contributing countries should play a bigger role in decision-making and be involved at all stages of the process. Missions should be rooted in the realities on the ground and based on the resources available. More financial and human resources should be devoted to peacebuilding in post-conflict situations so as to facilitate negotiated peace settlements. Since the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations depended on the armed forces of its Member States, United Nations Security Council reform was essential.

In a strong democracy like India, monitoring and oversight were crucial for holding a nation's armed forces to account. Monitoring mechanisms should enable the armed forces to learn from experience, uphold standards of conduct and align their values with those of wider society. Effective

oversight, ideally by a civilian authority, would promote transparency and protect the human rights of the armed forces, while maintaining military effectiveness and discipline. In India, parliamentary oversight of the armed forces took the form of debates, motions, question-time and demands for information when additional budget was required. Bills were also scrutinized by parliamentary select committees.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that, while the deployment of peacekeeping forces in line with international rules was generally a positive step, the negative effects should also be taken into account. For example, regarding impunity for peacekeepers, he wondered whether there were any reports, rules or principles governing the conduct of troops on peace missions. Moreover, he would be interested to know why there were no peacekeeping operations in certain conflict scenarios, such as the one occurring in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Peacekeeping was evolving towards conflict prevention, but politicians did not always take prevention into account. When it came to decision-making, the fact that some countries acted quickly, while others took their time, made it difficult to launch peacekeeping missions promptly, putting the ability to maintain peace in jeopardy. In that connection, he wondered why Ethiopia, Bangladesh and India contributed the most in terms of peacekeeping troops while other countries did almost nothing to participate in peacekeeping operations.

Mr. G.S. KHAN (Pakistan), giving an overview of his country's contributions to peacekeeping missions around the world, said that the United Nations had been created to save future generations from the scourge of war and to ensure international peace and security. But changing times called for a changing United Nations. Collective action was required against global terrorism, a menace that was not limited to one region, nation, faith or creed. Since the attack of 11 September 2001 in the United States, virtually every country, Islamic countries included, had suffered at the hands of terrorists. No country had endured more in that regard than Pakistan; over the past two decades, it had experienced tremendous human, material and economic loss. Nevertheless, such brutality had failed to break the country's resolve to root out and combat all forms of terrorism.

Pakistan was a leading troop contributor to the United Nations. However, since peacekeepers were not in active combat, the decision to deploy troops was down to the Government. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, should be more involved in the process. Parliament approved the defence budget; hence, it should be consulted on peacekeeping operations. The Ministry of Defence should also report to the Parliament at the end of a mission. The United Nations had no authority to prosecute peacekeepers who had committed abuse; it could only repatriate them. Parliaments were therefore best placed to provide oversight and ensure that justice was served. Lastly, if peacekeeping was to continue as a tool for peace and international security, Member States of the United Nations should ensure that missions had clear mandates and that they provided the human and financial resources necessary for their implementation. As parliamentarians, it was their responsibility to help the United Nations achieve its mandate and to foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination.

Ms. J. MORAES (Brazil) said that, at a time of major geopolitical instability, United Nations peacekeeping operations acquired special importance. As a member of the International Relations committee of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies, she had visited the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which had been under Brazilian military command from 2004 to 2017. The experience had served to highlight the important role that parliaments should play in such missions. The new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti had just been launched and was aimed at training the police, strengthening the rule of law and promoting respect for human rights, which was why military troops alone were not enough to support the work of peacekeeping missions.

Mr. P. MNGUNI (South Africa) said that his country was a significant troop contributor in Africa and beyond. Parliamentary oversight must be strengthened to ensure that abuse of power or sexual exploitation committed by peacekeeping personnel was addressed. In that connection, mobile military courts had been established to deal with allegations of abuse perpetrated by South African peacekeepers. A bill on military discipline, which would also govern the conduct of peacekeeping troops, was also in the pipeline.

In South Africa, the Government had to inform Parliament when, and why, it was deploying troops. Parliamentary committees were empowered by the Constitution to monitor peacekeeping operations, which they did through conducting visits to bases, receiving quarterly and annual reports from the Ministry of Defence, and raising parliamentary questions about peacekeeping missions.

Mr. HAI HA VU (Viet Nam) said that United Nations peacekeeping activities had to respect the independence and national sovereignty of the country concerned and abide by the principal of non-intervention in the internal affairs of a State. Missions approved by the United Nations Security Council must have a clear mandate and concrete objectives based on unbiased criteria.

Since 2014, Viet Nam had participated in a number of peacekeeping operations as part of its commitment to global integration and participation in common missions to maintain peace and international security. Parliament had approved legislation to facilitate the participation of Viet Nam in United Nations peacekeeping operations. It had used its legislative and oversight powers to ensure that Viet Nam abided by United Nations regulations. Parliamentary oversight should, however, be strengthened. Moreover, all governments should publish regular reports on the budget, resources and status of peacekeeping missions to aid in capacity-building and international cooperation. Viet Nam would welcome international support in terms of equipment, foreign language training and knowledge sharing in order to strengthen its capacities and enable it to continue to participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Mr. A. ABBASI (Islamic Republic of Iran), paying tribute to serving peacekeepers and those who had lost their lives for the cause, said that, over the years, the nature of peacekeeping operations had changed. Peacekeepers were not only required to maintain peace but also to facilitate political dialogue, reintegrate former combatants, promote human rights and restore the rule of law. It was therefore paramount that peacekeepers should abide by the highest standards of conduct. Abuse by peacekeepers tarnished the reputation of the United Nations and undermined the objectives of peacekeeping missions. The United Nations Secretary-General must continue to implement his zero-tolerance policy and take decisive action when misconduct and abuse occurred. Care should be taken to manage allegations correctly, uphold victims' rights and ensure that perpetrators cooperated during investigations. The naming and shaming of countries whose nationals had committed abuse must be avoided. Parliaments of troop-contributing countries should monitor the conduct of their nationals to help the United Nations tackle the abuse. Moreover, the IPU had an important role to play in encouraging and supporting its Member Parliaments to combat misconduct in the field.

Mr. S. ISMAYILOV (Azerbaijan) said that, as part of efforts to contribute to international peacekeeping operations, Azerbaijan had established specialized, well-trained peacekeeping units and battalions. Participation in the NATO-led Partnership for Peace programme had further helped to build the country's peacekeeping capacities and ensure that troops were trained in accordance with NATO standards. Azerbaijani troops had been deployed on a number of peacekeeping missions, including to Kosovo and Iraq, and as part of an anti-terrorism coalition in Afghanistan. The country's peacekeeping troops had been commended by their operational commanders for their professionalism and discipline.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal) said that his country had contributed to peacekeeping troops whenever they had been needed. The Government had a large parliamentary majority to support its decisions. Although Parliament was involved in decision-making, it was not always informed of the outcome of peacekeeping operations. United Nations peacekeeping forces should be required to send regular reports to parliaments, not just to governments.

Field visits, an important aspect of parliamentary oversight, were often denied for security reasons, although it was unclear if those reasons were valid or were an excuse to prevent parliamentarians from seeing what was happening on the ground. Although his Parliament supported decisions taken by the United Nations and governments to maintain peace, parliaments should be more involved in the process.

Mr. M. ALJAWDER (Bahrain) said that he wondered whether the term "peacekeeping" adequately described the role of troops who were often deployed while a conflict was ongoing. In that connection, he wished to know what role peacekeepers played in conflict situations, given that they could not intervene between the warring parties.

Peacekeeping operations were intended to maintain peace, spread democracy, enhance the rule of law and promote human rights. Instead, peacekeeping troops had sexually abused and exploited children and civilians. He would be interested to know why the United Nations did not have an appropriate mechanism for dealing with such cases. Lastly, he asked what role the IPU could play in holding the United Nations to account.

Mr. R. OSSELE NDONG (Gabon) said that in a parliamentary democracy, the parliament should be involved ex ante or ex post, although, in practice, that did not always happen. In countries with other political systems, the deployment of peacekeeping troops was the responsibility of the President or the head of the armed forces, depending on the country's constitutional arrangements. As such, the parliament would be reluctant to intervene, even if it felt it should. Pressure from the public and the

media could lead to a parliamentary debate, but the government could not be forced to respect the parliament's view. The United Nations and the IPU should therefore establish rules governing peacekeeping missions to which all countries must adhere.

Mr. K. BAKKAR (Jordan) said that the role of peacekeepers was to maintain peace and uphold the principles of justice and equality. With that in mind, he wondered whether peacekeepers were required to have specific qualifications or take certain courses before they could participate in a mission. In Jordan, for example, an institute had been established to develop the capacities of peacekeeping troops.

Jordan had adopted a dual approach to peacekeeping. First, it participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Second, it sent field hospitals and medical personnel to provide assistance to the civilians who were affected. The United Nations seemed to be operating on a double standard; some of its Member States had been left to languish in a situation of oppression. For instance, decades-old United Nations resolutions on the situation of Israel and Palestine were not being applied. Israel simply disregarded them. The situation surely warranted a more binding approach to put an end to the oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli occupying forces.

Jordan was fully participating in the war on terror and undertaking a number of humanitarian activities and, despite facing severe economic challenges and a large budgetary deficit, it had allocated significant funding to such efforts. Jordan stood shoulder to shoulder with countries who were suffering famine and displacement. The international community should come together to take preventive action to avoid further catastrophes and to spread peace and security.

Mr. A. SINMALEZA (Ecuador) said that, in cooperation with Chile, his country had been involved in peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities in Haiti. Peacekeeping troops were now gradually being withdrawn following the completion of the mission. Attention had now moved to the need to train members of the national police who would eventually take over the role of ensuring law and order and protecting civilians. It was an approach that should be replicated in other United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Ms. L. CAMERON (United Kingdom) said that by working together towards peace they could achieve sustainable development and build societies that were inclusive of the most vulnerable groups, ensuring that no one was left behind. As a member of the International Development Committee of the United Kingdom Parliament, she had visited countries riven by conflict. Those hardest-hit by war were persons who had no voice in society, were physically unable to leave, had limited economic empowerment and were disenfranchised by war.

Peacekeeping operations should seek to prevent or mitigate conflict and build towards sustainable development so that societies ravaged by war could create peace, opportunity and hope for all their citizens. Parliamentarians must have access to all available information and conduct monitoring and oversight of troops, including through carrying out visits and hearing expert evidence. The peacekeeping process should be accountable and inclusive, taking into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities. Women and persons with disabilities should play a role in peace negotiations and peacebuilding.

Mr. W. MUTOMBA (Zimbabwe) said that the United Nations had adopted a zero-tolerance policy on abuse of power by peacekeeping troops. Troop-contributing countries must take steps to monitor the conduct of their own peacekeeping forces. Parliament, too, had a vital decision-making and monitoring role to play.

In Zimbabwe, the executive and legislative branches determined the participation of Zimbabwean forces in peacekeeping operations. The executive was required to inform Parliament and outline the reasons why a troop deployment was warranted. Parliament had the power to review and debate, approve or deny, any such deployment. Parliament therefore had a major role to play in decision-making and oversight of national peacekeeping forces. As parliamentarians, they should visit troops abroad and obtain feedback from serving personnel on their experiences, challenges and conditions of service.

Mr. A.L.S. SSEBAGALA (Uganda), expressing his sadness at the terrorist attack that had killed scores of people in Somalia, said that the debate was missing reports from committee members who had visited peacekeeping troops on peace missions. Information about the challenges faced in peacekeeping missions would have been useful.

He wondered how exactly peacemaking, peacebuilding, peace enforcement and peacekeeping operations differed; whether peacekeeping forces could also perform each one of those functions; and how they avoided becoming combative or entangled in political situations. Lastly, as parliamentarians, they could not stand by and leave it to a handful of countries to provide much-needed troops. He

wondered how information on peacekeeping operations and requests for troops was disseminated and how parliamentarians, Member Parliaments and the IPU could further enhance awareness of the troop-contributing process.

Ms. G. KATUTA (Zambia) said that Zambia had participated in a number of African Union and United Nations peacekeeping operations, notably in Mozambique, Angola, the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sierra Leone. The overarching role of the Zambian Parliament's committee on national security was to ensure that the Government did not establish policies that could jeopardize its relations with neighbouring countries. Parliamentarians therefore played an important role in promoting peace and security and resolving conflict, including at the regional level.

Secrecy and confidentiality laws hampered parliamentarians' ability to work in a transparent manner. The IPU Assembly provided an opportunity to engage with decision-makers from the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians must hold governments to account and monitor the conduct of national armed forces in peacekeeping operations. It was time for world leaders to actively involve parliaments in conflict management and prevention at a much higher level. Parliaments must also ensure that they had the necessary resources to contribute effectively to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and international security.

Mr. M. ELAMIN KHALIFA (Sudan) said that, since the main goal of peacekeeping operations was to protect civilians from aggressors, he wondered whether any preliminary work could be undertaken to lay the groundwork for peacekeeping operations and ensure their success. For instance, it would be interesting to know what measures could be taken as regards the plight of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

Mr. J. BORN (Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research Division, DCAF), *panellist*, said that four main areas of concern had come up time and again throughout the rich and interesting discussion. First, it should be pointed out that the IPU had no formal role to play in peacekeeping operations. As members of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, however, they could set up subgroups of troop-contributing countries or on specific missions with a view to creating a discussion forum. Second, impunity and abuse of power were serious issues that merited closer attention and, perhaps, a separate panel discussion. Third, various United Nations missions were under way covering a wide range of peace-related programmes, including peacemaking, peacebuilding and peace enforcement. A soldier engaged in one type of mission was unlikely to be able to carry out the functions of another. The future of peacekeeping, and how it needed to change to meet the demands of the twenty-first century, should be discussed further. Lastly, parliamentarians should feel empowered to question why some countries were major troop contributors, while others were not.

Panel discussion on the implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare (Hanoi, 2015)

The PRESIDENT introduced the panellists: Mr. D. Stauffacher, President, ICT4Peace Foundation; and Mr. K. Geier, Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany.

Mr. D. STAUFFACHER (President, ICT4Peace Foundation), *panellist*, said that a key focus of his organization, ICT4Peace, was championing the use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and new media for peaceful purposes, and promoting cybersecurity and a peaceful, open and free cyberspace. Since its establishment in the early 2000s, the landscape had changed markedly. The internet now had billions of users, with the attendant positive and negative effects. Technology had led to worldwide connectivity, the fast flow of information, inexpensive tool development and new ways of interaction, including between people and governments. Cyberspace could not, however, be taken for granted; it was not only being challenged by criminals, hackers and terrorists, but also being used for strategic purposes. In that light, his organization worked with major social media companies to tackle the problem of terrorist content. ICT4Peace had helped the United Nations and its stakeholders to build a unified information management system, taking account of the need to collect, analyse and share data for decision-making in man-made or natural crises, while also protecting that data. Stakeholders, including victims and NGOs, were also involved in producing data that was now such a crucial part of peacekeeping operations. That gave rise to a whole host of other challenges such as learning how to distinguish real news from fake news, protect sources and use social media. Technology was evolving at a fast pace: every six months, new tools emerged, many of

them open source and produced by volunteers. The United Nations special procedures were even using such tools to monitor the incidence of hate speech, an early indicator of other crimes. Training on how to use those new tools was therefore being provided to personnel involved in peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

The cybersecurity challenge had led many governments to begin arming themselves for offensive and defensive purposes. There had been an erosion of trust between governments, between governments and citizens, and between companies and individuals. As parliamentarians, they should press their governments for national cybersecurity strategies, monitor their subsequent implementation and push for capacity-building programmes for governments, parliaments and the wider population alike. New and updated legislation was also required to take account of new and emerging cybercrimes. Many countries had also invested in national computer emergency response teams. It was important, too, to develop public-private partnerships, since many of the latest tools were in private hands.

At the international level, work had started, but much still remained to be done. One notable area of progress revolved around norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace. Another important development had been in the use of confidence-building measures, which were currently being explored by the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, among others. It was regrettable that the World Summit on the Information Society +10 (WSIS+10) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) had not placed enough emphasis on the importance of cybersecurity and capacity-building, since those were development issues. Developing countries must be able to acquire the necessary capacities and tools to fully engage in international discussions.

The need to prevent and combat the use of ICT for terrorist purposes was a new and troubling area of development. At the invitation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council, his organization had analysed some of the threats and evaluated what companies were doing to take down terrorist content. There was a need to involve the wider community in efforts to combat the issue and to link what was happening in the real world with what was being seen online. The big social networks were often in the news, but it was small- and medium-sized enterprises, and in particular start-ups, that were of major concern. They were increasingly being used by terrorist groups but did not have the necessary means for, or were not interested in, tackling the problem. Work was now under way to develop terms of service or community guidelines that would allow companies to remove terrorist content. Algorithms were also being explored as a means of identifying such content, since the scale of the problem was enormous. Efforts should therefore be made to place terrorist content and fake news — another growing challenge — on the global security agenda alongside cybercrime. In that regard, ICT4Peace was building a knowledge-sharing platform to help companies combat the problem. In the long run, terrorist content was not good for their business or for the well-being of their staff. For that reason, a concerted and collective effort had to be made to stamp it out.

Mr. K. GEIER (Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany), *panellist*, said that ICT heralded tremendous opportunities, such as in science and research, global communication, and economic growth and development. At the same time, ICT was creating greater dependence and interdependence between countries, thereby increasing the potential for new vulnerabilities and attack factors. Earlier that year, malware attacks had affected hundreds of thousands of computers and critical infrastructures around the globe. Moreover, ICT was increasingly being used to interfere in the internal affairs of States, as had been witnessed during the United States presidential elections, for instance. Thus, ICT could be used to strike right at the political heart of modern States.

According to a 2013 survey by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, of the 114 countries with national cybersecurity programmes, 47 had given a cybersecurity role to their armed forces, a development that posed a threat to international security. In the intervening four years, that number would have only increased. The damage potential of ICT was akin to that of nuclear weapons. However, ICT was frequently being used in international conflicts, whereas nuclear weapons had been used only twice – when their consequences had not been fully understood. The security risks posed by ICT could be mitigated through a self-reinforcing approach: creating international rules governing the use of ICT; implementing confidence-building measures to inspire mutual trust so that States would abide by those rules; and providing capacity-building to ensure that all States could abide by those rules and confidence-building measures.

The United Nations had been working towards establishing international cyber rules and standards of behaviour since 1998, at the instigation of a Russian initiative in the General Assembly. The corresponding Group of Governmental Experts had been established in 2005 and had met

several times to discuss developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. In 2013, the Group had delivered a landmark report establishing that international law and, in particular, the Charter of the United Nations, were applicable to cyberspace and essential for maintaining peace and international security. Subsequent meetings had offered insights on how international law could be applied and had outlined voluntary norms on State behaviour.

At the Group's most recent meeting, in 2016, the experts had painted a more precise threat picture and identified emerging threats, such as the use of ICT by non-State actors or proxies. Moreover, it had assessed the spread of malicious ICT activities that could disrupt or impair the internet's functionality; undermine data security, authenticity, availability and integrity; and interfere in the internal affairs of other States. It had also looked at non-binding norms and principles of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace and proposed a number of mechanisms for responding to cyber incidents. For instance, it had suggested the use of ICT assessment schemes, incident severity templates and official notification procedures to enable States to inform each other of ICT-related issues and to request or provide assistance. Progress had also been made on the issue of confidence-building, with various measures put forward, such as developing repositories of confidence-building and cross-regional measures, and providing guidance on points of contact, templates and procedures. Ideas on capacity-building had also been put forward, including the importance of awareness-raising, promoting education and professional training, sharing information and involving a broad range of stakeholders in capacity-building measures.

In the end, however, owing to deep divisions on how international law applied to States' use of ICT, the Group had failed to agree on a consensus outcome report or make recommendations for future work. As a result, the process first launched by the 1998 Russian initiative had probably now run its course. Although tremendous progress had been made in that time, the momentum must continue towards building a global understanding of the rules applicable to cyberspace. It was not enough to simply engage in dialogue with like-minded countries, since that would only lead to fragmentary and divergent approaches. It was in everyone's interest to ensure an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment, without which less well-integrated nations would be left behind.

Rules, however, were only one part of the puzzle. Assurances that States would, and could, adhere to rules were required in the form of confidence-building and capacity-building measures. Regional organizations were best placed to pursue confidence-building measures, since conflicts generally arose between close neighbours, rather than between distant States. In Europe, the OSCE had issued confidence- and transparency-building measures in 2013 and 2016. Similar measures were being taken by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Organization of American States (OAS) and the African Union. However, cybersecurity capacity-building was best approached through close bilateral partnerships, since it was a sensitive issue. Requesting capacity-building involved a State revealing the areas in which it was vulnerable.

In conclusion, ICT offered enormous opportunities, but also opened up a greater number of attack factors. It was, however, a common threat faced by all States; thus, by tackling it together, States could build confidence and security.

Mr. A. KLIMOV (Russian Federation) said that, naturally enough, every human invention had positive and negative effects. The Russian Federation had been subjected to hundreds of very serious cyberattacks. Thirty per cent of attacks had emanated from the United States, whereas only 2 per cent of attacks on the United States had originated in the Russian Federation. His country's proposal to establish an ad hoc commission in the common interest had elicited no response from the United States. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation was prepared to set up the commission as a confidence-building measure.

There were two main types of cyberattacks: on the one hand, commercial crime and unfair competition; on the other, political warfare, which included interference in the internal affairs of a State through the use of ICT. In line with the IPU resolution entitled *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States*, adopted at the 136th Assembly in Bangladesh, the Council of the Russian Federation had established a commission for protecting the country's sovereignty and preventing interference in its internal affairs. The commission actively monitored cyber developments and shared information with the international community. The Russian Federation was not involved in exporting ideologies; it had no interest in pitting East against West. However, while his country was looking for friends – not enemies – it was not about to trade in its sovereignty.

The Russian Federation welcomed democracy, which gave people the right to make their own decisions. However, it was against exported democracy, where external actors, rather than the people, set the agenda. No country could combat and solve alone the negative uses and effects of ICT; the solution lay in international cooperation. To that end, the Russian Federation wished to create a

climate of confidence, paving the way for a political assessment of the negative impacts of ICT and the establishment of adequate responses. His country stood ready to act at home and in cooperation with other countries and international organizations so as to ensure respect for Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations, which prohibited interference in the internal affairs of States.

Mr. YINGDA NI (China) said that cybersecurity was an issue of security, sovereignty and development in every country. Instead of being a battlefield, cyberspace should be used as a tool to promote social and economic progress and to enhance the peace, stability and well-being of societies. Three essential conditions were required to achieve cybersecurity. First, the meaning of cybersecurity must be fully understood. A nation's sovereignty not only covered its land, air and sea, but also its cyberspace. Although the internet was a global tool, no country's cyberspace sovereignty should be infringed. The right to choose an independent cyberspace development path and apply one's own internet management policies should be respected. Every country should have the right to equal participation in cyberspace governance. No country should seek cyber hegemony, interfere in another's domestic affairs or engage in or support cyber activities that undermined another country's national security. Second, collective measures must be taken to avoid cyber warfare. No country could achieve security alone; strengthening arms in cyberspace would not enhance security but would trigger an arms race and lead to conflict. The global community must turn from the well-trodden path of arms development first, disarmament later. Cyberspace must not become another arena of warfare. Third, a structured and democratic governance system should be built and a code of conduct for international cyberspace developed under the auspices of the United Nations. States must abide by international law and respect each other's sovereignty, not interfere in their domestic affairs or undermine their interests through the internet. Parliamentarians had a role to play by encouraging their governments to establish policies for peaceful, secure and open cooperation in cyberspace, and to engage in dialogue on the basis of mutual respect to pave the way for an international, multilateral and transparent system. The whole world shared the same fate; hence, a secure, stable and prosperous cyberspace was vital for everyone.

Mr. JONG SUP CHONG (Republic of Korea) said that just as the world was facing real-life terrorist attacks at the hands of violent extremists, similar patterns were also unfolding in cyberspace. A country with a high internet penetration rate, the Republic of Korea was in a unique situation owing to the ongoing military confrontation between the two Koreas. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea was doing its utmost to comply with and undertake follow-up measures to the 2015 IPU resolution on cyber warfare. There was, however, a need to develop international norms and standards governing cyberspace to ensure that it was used for peaceful purposes. While past attempts had been made to develop universal regulations, international discussions had made little progress. The IPU should act as a forum to foster debate on the topic, including on issues such as invoking the right to defence against cyberattacks, applying the law of war to cyber operations and dealing with breaches of international law in cyberspace.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that, in Thailand, cyberthreats had adversely affected the public and private sectors alike. Some 3,800 attacks had been reported in recent years, the overwhelming majority of which had involved fraud, intrusion or malicious codes. Vigilance was needed to prevent attacks that could threaten national security and economic stability. His country had taken measures to respond to the emergence of new threats: a cybersecurity committee had been set up; a new national policy on cybersecurity had been formulated; and the Computer Crime Act had been amended to provide for more effective protection of the critical infrastructure. Several other bills were in the pipeline, including a data protection bill. Legislation had been drafted taking account of international principles, citizens' rights and freedoms – online and offline – and the need to guard against cyberthreats. In line with the 2015 IPU resolution on cyber warfare, different stakeholders had been involved in developing new legislation, and public forums had been held to promote dialogue with the public and the business sector.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that she wondered whether the 2015 IPU resolution on cyber warfare had prompted the United Nations to adopt any similar measures. Since 2006, the Bahraini legislature had been mindful of the pressing need to develop modern legislation and security systems to prevent cyber warfare and to protect citizens from terrorist attacks through state-of-the-art technology. Several pieces of relevant legislation had been enacted, including a 2014 law on cyberattacks and cyberthreats, which had sought to strike a balance between citizens' rights and obligations and actions that could pose a risk to peace through cyber warfare. A preventive approach to cybercrime was also being taken.

The online sexual abuse of children was a serious threat to the safety and stability of families and communities. In that regard, Bahrain had enacted a child protection law in 2014, for the purposes of tackling online sexual abuse, an issue it had been working on in collaboration with the United Kingdom and other stakeholders. A general directorate had been set up to provide information on different types of cybercrime, foster the responsible use of social media and provide details on how citizens could make complaints. Those measures had helped limit cybercrime in Bahrain and improve public security, without violating the country's international commitments to protecting human rights.

Ms. L.I. CERITOGU KURT (Turkey) said that the malicious cyberactivities of terrorists and criminals were a serious threat to national security and undermined economic and social development. Her country had faced many cyberthreats and had taken steps to secure its ICT systems. A cybersecurity council had been formed, a national cybersecurity strategy developed and related action plans implemented. Her country worked closely with various international organizations, including NATO and the OSCE, and shared its knowledge on cyber issues in regional forums. Turkey was a founding member of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and sponsored the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence. The transformative characteristics of cyberspace required international cooperation. In that light, Turkey would continue its work at the international level with a view to finding effective solutions for making cyberspace – and the planet – safe and secure.

Ms. S. KAMRAN (Pakistan) said that cybercrime and cyber warfare were growing dangers, with evolving modus operandi, that constituted serious threats to global security. Among the threats posed by ICT, the theft of information, fabrication of data, computer viruses and sabotage were national security issues. In line with the IPU's resolution of 2015, on preventing cyber warfare, a number of measures had been taken in Pakistan. In 2016, the parliament had passed the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act criminalizing relevant offences and representing an important step in preventing cybercrimes and cyber warfare. A national centre on cybercrime had been set up to fight cybercrime, and a draft digital policy was also in the pipeline. Both cyberspace and ICT were in a state of continuous development and convergence. Updated laws and proactive measures were therefore vital to ensure the smooth functioning of all relevant institutions and stakeholders the world over. In recognition of that fact, Pakistan had taken legislative steps to curb threats to its cybersecurity. That said, it continued to face such threats and was therefore open to confidence-building measures. As parliamentarians, they must relay the seriousness of the threat to their parliaments and encourage collaborative efforts to prevent cybercrime and cyber warfare.

Mr. O. ALROWAIE (Kuwait) said that greater emphasis should be placed on building security, cooperation and confidence between societies and governments. It was important to define the legal and criminal responsibility for perpetrators of cyberattacks, since they were a risk to national security. In Kuwait, legislation to combat cybercrime had been adopted, but the phenomenon should also be regulated by international governance. In the past, Kuwait had experienced problems in gaining access to the Internet. Now that it was able to enter cyberspace more or less freely, it wondered how best to coordinate with other States, especially when those countries were themselves under cyberattack. Once the legal responsibilities for such attacks had been defined, the next steps included confidence-building measures and striking the right balance between freedom of expression and right of access to the internet and the civil rights and obligations laid down in international instruments.

Mr. A. ABBASI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that information technologies applied to every aspect of modern daily life, including to a country's economic and social infrastructure. Those technologies and cyberspace held great potential for national development and international cooperation. On the flip side, they could be used maliciously to undermine national interests and international stability. Cyberspace was being exploited by terrorists and extremists, who used it to disseminate their destructive ideas, recruit and train followers and carry out cyberattacks. In that light, international cooperation was paramount to address the grave consequences of those threats. The principles of the Charter of the United Nations should therefore be applied to cyberspace.

All countries should be able to benefit from the advancements and development potential of ICT and cyberspace, without discrimination. To that end, States and international organizations should place capacity-building measures firmly on the agenda, and developed nations should share their knowledge and expertise with developing countries. Baseless accusations should not be used to hinder countries' access to ICT and other advanced technologies. Greater dialogue was needed, and the IPU played an important role in facilitating knowledge sharing. All countries should cooperate to ensure the security and stability of ICT and to tackle its use for malicious and destabilizing purposes.

Mr. J.L. MAZORRA ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the only way to prevent cyber warfare was if all States worked together. International cooperation at political, operational and technical levels should be promoted to prevent and mitigate cyberevents that were detrimental to international security. There should be legislation to combat the unlawful use of computer technologies for the purposes of fomenting political instability. That phenomenon constituted an unconventional method of warfare for subversive ends. Legal instruments should be enacted to prevent illegal and covert use of computer systems to attack other States, cyberterrorism, militarization of cyberspace and espionage of governments and whole societies. His country remained deeply dismayed by the covert and illegal use by individuals, organizations and States of the computer systems of other nations to attack third countries, given their potential to provoke international conflicts.

His country's biggest strength lay in its prestigious human capital, notably engineers and technicians who were at the forefront of the ICT field. The country had placed a priority on comprehensive policies to increase the use of ICT in Cuban society, meet the country's growing information and service needs and accelerate the nation's economic and social development, all while enhancing the well-being of its citizens. The use of a free operating system had developed in Cuba had made it possible to browse the Internet safely and independently, while maintaining technological sovereignty. As parliamentarians, they must contribute to basic international guidelines on digital-era political communications, internet governance and cybersecurity.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that the discussion had served to provide parliamentarians with ideas on how to approach the development of appropriate national legislation. Progress had already been made in that area in the United Arab Emirates. A law had been enacted in 2012 to create a national commission on cybersecurity and to structure ICT networks to safeguard the security and confidentiality of data. A law on cybercrime had also been amended.

Mr. C.S. SIPAPELA (Namibia) said that the increased use of the Internet had led to a sharp rise in cyberattacks. Today, political and military conflicts often involved a cyber dimension. Cyberspace had transformed the global community, driving economic growth, connecting people and providing new methods of communication and cooperation. However, the growth in and increasing reliance on cyberspace should be matched by global efforts to keep it secure. Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, were uniquely positioned to influence the shape and content of their respective national cybersecurity policies. Parliamentary standing committees must ensure that appropriate legislation on ICT and cybercrimes was enacted, implemented, reviewed and regularly updated, while taking account of relevant regional and international commitments and respecting basic human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In Namibia, a parliamentary standing committee conducted oversight of government activity in the field of ICT. Bills on cybersecurity, online transactions and access to information were currently being drafted. Efforts to increase cybersecurity expertise in the country included university courses, an internet governance forum and a workshop aimed at encouraging knowledge- and information-sharing among parliamentarians, NGOs and the private sector in Namibia and other African countries. Being prepared was the key: today, cybercrime affected Europe, tomorrow, it would affect Africa.

Mr. H. ALI NIMIR (Sudan) said that, since cybersecurity was a critical issue, efforts must be made by national, regional and local stakeholders to confront the challenges of the modern world. As parliamentarians, they should move quickly to ensure that the necessary laws were up to date. In the Sudan, a national commission on information and communication technologies worked in conjunction with the relevant government ministry. Legislation criminalizing and establishing penalties for cybercrimes had been adopted. Information exchange among experts was an important confidence-building and capacity-strengthening measure in the field of cyberspace. It should not, however, be used to interfere in national policy.

Mr. K. BAKKAR (Jordan) said that extremist and terrorist groups, including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), were using ICT and cyber-warfare tactics to recruit young people to their cause, engineer hostilities and distort the very image of Islam, a faith of tolerance. The mass media also played a major role. Nevertheless, one could not deny the importance of ICT in citizens' daily lives. With that in mind, he wondered how best to reconcile freedom of expression online with the need for strengthened regulation, oversight and monitoring of parties who used it for malicious purposes. A balance needed to be struck between protecting human rights and access to information, while ensuring collective security. ICT had become a dangerous weapon. A collective vision was necessary to safeguard human rights, defend national security and sovereignty, guard against interference and protect new generations from emerging threats.

Mr. R. MACHINGURA (Zimbabwe) said that the discussion was a timely one. The panellists had compared cybersecurity threats to nuclear and chemical warfare. If that was the case, one wondered if the enormous risks and dangers posed by cyberspace essentially rendered geographical borders useless.

Zimbabwe had faced three main categories of threats: hackers who exploited system vulnerabilities for fun or to make political statements; individual or organized criminals motivated by economic gain; and attacks from foreign armed forces, intelligence agencies, terrorist groups and, even, disgruntled government employees, who sometimes released sensitive information. Several initiatives had been taken: the national policy on ICT governance had been aligned with the Hanoi resolution on cyber warfare, and a number of laws had been enacted to regulate digital communications, protect data and privacy and establish corresponding criminal offences. Confidence-building measures included bills on data protection, cybercrime and online transactions.

Ms. KIM NGAN NGUYEN THI (Viet Nam) said that, since the resolution on cyber warfare had been adopted in 2015, Viet Nam had adopted legislation to protect online information and prevent cyber warfare. A bill on cybersecurity was also in the pipeline with the aim of preventing and responding to cyberthreats and combating terrorist conspiracies that could undermine peace and national security. It was important to ensure, however, that it incorporated a gender perspective.

Ms. G. JOURDA (France) said that the extraordinary expansion of the internet had ruptured the borders between States, virtually bringing them down, and exploded the concept of private life. In the face of terrorist threats and the malicious use of cyberspace, international, national and collective responses were essential for restoring trust. In a world of war and blind violence, it would be no easy task, but it was by no means impossible. The resolution adopted in Hanoi served as a blueprint for action and cooperation to protect States and their citizens from the threat of cyber warfare. As parliamentarians, they now needed to take steps, as ICT evolved rapidly, to inspire confidence among their constituents and build security. Various committees in France had reflected on the Hanoi resolution, implemented local and national plans and collaborated with European counterparts to protect and ensure the well-being of their populations. But progress needed to be made globally to manage the influence of cyberspace and improve cybersecurity. On the one hand, national defence systems could be hacked; on the other, children were at risk of suicide because of online content.

Mr. D. STAUFFACHER (President, ICT4Peace Foundation) *panellist*, said that he had been impressed by the efforts being made by the participants to catch up with what was a difficult and fast-evolving subject. As parliamentarians, they must push their governments to take the necessary cybersecurity measures. The Hanoi resolution was an excellent starting point. The real challenge, of course, lay in striking the right balance between respect for human rights and freedom of speech, while combating the use of ICT for the purposes of terrorism. Many social media companies had their jurisdictions in the United States, where the freedom-of-speech bar was high under the First Amendment to the Constitution. If content was clearly hate speech or incitement to violence, however, it should be taken down. Things became murkier when content critical of a government was labelled as terrorist. Social media networks were now publishing transparency reports which detailed requests received from governments to take down content.

Mr. K. GEIER (Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany) *panellist*, said that many concerns had been raised as regards the impact of ICT on national security and sovereignty. It had been recognized that international law and the Charter of the United Nations were applicable to cyberspace, but further efforts were needed to build a global understanding of how they applied. The Charter and international conventions, as well as the reports of the Group of Government Experts, would be a solid foundation for future work and discussions.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11 a.m. with Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Expert hearing on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*

The PRESIDENT said that the objective of the expert hearing was to inform IPU Members on the topic. It would also serve as an intermediary checkpoint half way through the resolution drafting process. Parliamentarians should not discuss the resolution's substance, stances or drafting but rather

the concepts that it would address. In their interventions, delegates should provide the co-rapporteurs with guidance. She also invited delegates who so wished to submit written contributions to the Secretariat. She introduced the panellists.

Mr. H.-J. BRINKMAN (Chief of Policy, Planning and Application, UN Peacebuilding Support Office - PBSO), *panellist*, said that the United Nations had spent US\$ 71 billion on crisis response over the previous two years. However, some very severe outbreaks or relapses of violence had continued to occur, for instance, in the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Yemen. The United Nations had, therefore, reviewed its peacebuilding operations and adopted several resolutions on sustaining peace. Four main elements were at the core of the resolutions. First, the resolutions recognised that peacebuilding was required before, during and after conflict in contrast to traditional approaches which focused on post-conflict efforts. Second, there was a need for a coherent and comprehensive strategy which not only addressed peace and security but also development, human rights and humanitarian response. Such a strategy would take into account the changing nature of conflict, including the rise of non-state armed groups. Third, the resolutions emphasised inclusive national ownership that went beyond governments and included other actors such as civil society, the private sector and, notably, parliaments. Evidence suggested that political exclusion was the most prominent reason why peace agreements failed. Meaningful participation of women was particularly effective in making peace agreements last longer. Fourth, partnerships were necessary, not only with civil society and the private sector but also with regional organisations, such as the African Union, and financial institutions, such as the World Bank.

The peace resolutions fit into a larger picture of discussions at the United Nations. For instance, peace was interwoven throughout the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was a recognition that peace and sustainable development were two complementary and mutually reinforcing concepts. Violent conflict had been the biggest obstacle to sustainable development. Many drivers of violent conflict, such as, socioeconomic inequalities and natural resource management, were also linked to sustainable development. It was important to address those drivers early on. The main responsibility lay with national governments. A people-centred approach was necessary.

Ambassador G. BÄCHLER (Special Representative for the South Caucasus, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe - OSCE), *panellist*, said that the world was very late to act on peacebuilding and conflict management. Some major charters and papers on peace and development had existed since the early nineties, but the problem had hardly improved since then. In fact, the number of conflicts was increasing. The reasons for the violence included Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the fact that internal conflicts were becoming internationalised.

Conflict mediation was partially successful since it helped to reduce violence. However, it was common for conflicts to resume within five years of that mediation. Furthermore, more than half of conflicts did not have any mediation whatsoever. When it did occur, it was mostly in Europe and less in Africa and Asia.

Peacebuilding was a long term endeavour and must start as early as possible. It must be based on prevention and early warning systems. Such systems, however, were not well developed or understood by political leaders. It was the responsibility of parliaments, together with the academic community, to make sure that early warning and prevention systems were more robust and digestible for political leaders.

There were many instruments, groups and funds focusing on the peak of a conflict and on the period immediately after a conflict. There must be more interventions five years before and five years after a conflict. Approaches to intervention must be tailor made. They must address the root causes of the situation. It was also important to engage with local actors rather than entering in a top down manner. For instance, local mediation units should support chief mediators from the United Nations and other organisations on local issues such as water, environment and constitution making.

Funds were available for post-conflict management, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian response. Sometimes there were too many funds but not enough expertise. It was crucial to ensure that the money was not used for corruption or crime.

Mr. J. BORN (Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces), *panellist*, said that the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) was an international foundation aiming to promote good governance of the security sector in compliance with the rule of law, human rights and democracy. The security landscape had changed over the previous forty years. The types of threats were different and now included terrorism, cyber threats and health emergencies. Responses to those threats must be comprehensive. As a result, the focus of the security sector had become more focused on peacebuilding and development.

Peacebuilding approaches had shifted towards prevention. Prevention involved addressing the drivers of conflicts. Parliaments should assess to what extent their own security sectors addressed drivers of conflict such as exclusion, illicit drug trafficking and uncontrolled migration. Sustainable development was important in that regard. The most relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were gender equality (SDG 5), urban safety (SDG 11) and justice (SDG 16).

Although many conflicts were rooted in wider societal issues, security still played a central role. Poor governance of the security sector could lead to escalation of violence. Security providers such as the police, military and intelligence services must be both effective and accountable to ensure adequate protection for citizens. Parliaments must ensure that the security sector respected democracy and the rule of law and addressed security threats in an effective, accountable and comprehensive manner.

It was important to put the above ideas into practice. To do so, DCAF and the IPU were setting up a toolkit on how parliamentarians could contribute to security. The toolkit would be based on the five functions of parliaments - the legislative, budgetary, oversight, elective and representative functions. The toolkit would also apply to specific thematic areas: state of emergency, missions abroad, urban security, terrorism, human trafficking, organised crime, private security, small arms and light weapons transfer and cyber security. He asked whether delegates wished to add further topics to the list.

Ms. S. Taqawi (Bahrain), member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee, took the Chair.

Mr. B. MERJANEH (Syrian Arab Republic) asked for five points to be included in the draft resolution. First, sustaining peace was a prerequisite for sustainable development. Second, parliaments should pressure their governments to implement the IPU resolution on the role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. Third, all countries had a right to formulate their own programmes on sustainable development without supervision from other parties. Countries also had a right to enjoy a just and fair exchange with partners. Fourth, the international community must confront terrorism by draining its financial resources and ideology. Fifth, IPU must condemn the Turkish intervention in Syrian territory which took place with the support of terrorist organisations and in violation of international agreements.

Mr. K. ÖRNFJÄDER (Sweden) said that development was key to peace and peace was key to development. Neither could happen without respect for human rights. Vibrant democracy was a vital tool for preventing conflicts and obtaining sustainable peace. Recent developments in the post Arab Spring era showed there were no short cuts to democracy or peace. The rule of law, effective and accountable institutions and an independent judiciary were just as vital to a vibrant and credible democracy as free and fair elections. Inclusivity was also vital since exclusion was a driver of conflict. Part of inclusivity was gender equality. Nothing should be discussed about women without women. Women's experiences contributed to conflict resolution.

Mr. K. BAKKAR (Jordan) said that peacebuilding must be comprehensive and prevention-focused. Sustainable development was equally important but required partnerships, a team spirit and the participation of all parties. International efforts, in addition to local ones, were necessary to uphold global values such as equality and justice. The international community had adopted many resolutions but not all countries respected them. For instance, there were many decisions on nuclear arms yet some countries continued to develop them. Foreign intervention had intensified conflict in the Middle East. In Jordan, development interventions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other organisations had also led to economic deterioration.

He asked what the best path was for Jordan. He inquired whether the country should begin with security or sustainable development and whether sustainable development was sufficient. Jordan was a country surrounded by conflict. It was also experiencing many economic problems including poverty and a trade deficit. The country had made efforts to reconcile peace and sustainable development which could be a model for others.

Ms. L. Rojas, President of the Standing Committee resumed the Chair.

Mr. M. ALJAWDER (Bahrain) said that sustainable development should come before any other objectives. It should include concepts such as human rights, stability, peace, justice and trade. The link between the economy, environment and society at large was also key to development. Sustainable development was important because it was the link between present and future generations.

There were political, economic, technological and environmental difficulties involved in sustainable development. Some of those included poverty, pollution and overexploitation of resources.

Sustainable development had at times created conflict between the north and the south with the poorer countries suffering the most. However, the international community must work together to achieve mutual benefits from sustainable development. For instance, better distribution of wealth would reduce the gap between developed and developing countries.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that sustainable development and peace were linked. However, some countries had achieved sustainable development but were then negatively affected by outside interference. In Bahrain, economic indicators had fallen following interference from neighbouring countries. The same had happened in Libya. The United Nations should establish a mechanism which prevented outside interference.

Mr. A. WARE (Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament - PNND) said that the resolution should highlight the importance of disarmament to peace and sustainable development. There were a number of reasons why. First, conflicts were more destructive to development when weapons were used, whether small arms and light weapons or more devastating weapons such as land mines. The effects of weapons were often long term and could be felt even after conflicts were resolved. Second, arms races were a threat to peace. The international community often put sanctions on countries involved in arms races but sanctions inhibited development. Third, the global weapons budget amounted to US\$ 1.7 trillion per year. That funding could be reallocated for sustainable development. Fourth, the UN Charter specifically stipulated that States should work on disarmament to release resources for economic and social needs. The Security Council had not acted on that requirement as the permanent five benefitted from the arms race. However, the General Assembly had been very active on the matter. The IPU should cooperate with the General Assembly.

Mr. A. SUWANMONGKOL (Thailand) said that his country supported the commitment to forge stronger links between peace, security and sustainable development. Thailand attached great importance to peacekeeping operations which focused on achieving sustainable development by addressing the root causes of conflict. Thailand had sent more than 27,000 troops on UN peacekeeping missions. The country had been particularly involved in capacity building initiatives which enabled conflict areas to become more resilient.

Thailand's national development plan was based on the sufficient economy philosophy. The country promoted a people-centred approach to sustainable development and encouraged exchange of knowledge and best practices among countries. The engagement of women was also crucial for a peaceful, inclusive society. The Parliament of Thailand had recently passed two ground-breaking laws which highlighted the links between sustainable development and peace.

Mr. M. ALMEHRZI (United Arab Emirates) said that the United Arab Emirates had been working towards improving peace and security and was first in the region for competitiveness and sustainable development. One of the obstacles to development was conflict. The cause of many conflicts was external interference usually by foreign powers with interests in a given country. Interference had led to the destruction of many countries in the Middle East. Given the Security Council had not implemented its resolutions, alternative solutions must be found.

Mr. H. ALI NIMIR (Sudan) said that most conflicts occurred in developing countries and led to instability and underdevelopment. Sudan had experienced many internal conflicts, the causes of which included resource management, international interference and religion. Sudan had also been suffering as a result of the embargo that had lasted two decades. The United Nations must help countries to overcome their problems and build peace and development.

Ms. L.I. CERITOGU KURT (Turkey) said that the international community must help Turkey to safeguard the lives of women and children as well as to secure the country's borders.

Mr. S. ALKHATHLAN (Saudi Arabia) said that foreign interference was one of main obstacles to security and development. The forthcoming resolution should reaffirm the previous resolution on the role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. It should also contain an item concerning practical mechanisms by which the resolution could be applied.

Mr. N. CHEIKHI (Morocco) said that sustainable development and peace were interconnected. To achieve peace was to achieve stability. Once stability was achieved, development indicators would improve. Morocco had had a difficult period after the Arab spring, but was now going through a democratic transformation.

The draft resolution should emphasise the need to consolidate democracy as a path to achieving peace and stability. That would provide the necessary conditions for sustainable development. The resolution should also underscore the need to prevent foreign intervention in the internal affairs of States. In the Middle East, foreign intervention had had tragic consequences. He asked what was required of parliamentarians to enhance the relationship between peace and sustainable development.

The PRESIDENT said that the resolution must make the concept of sustaining peace relevant to the role of parliamentarians. She asked experts to elaborate on how that should be done.

Mr. H.-J. BRINKMAN (Chief of Policy, Planning and Application, UN PBSO), *panellist*, said that early prevention was key. It was paramount to look at the grievances of the population before conflicts broke out. In particular, countries should address inequalities among different groups. They should also be careful on how they delivered social services, such as education and healthcare. Public perceptions greatly affected trust and legitimacy of government. Research showed that neither the quantity, quality nor the party delivering the services mattered. What mattered was whether there was a dialogue mechanism by which citizens could express their concerns. Parliaments played an important role since they themselves were such a mechanism. Through interactions with their constituents, parliaments would be better placed to address any negative perceptions.

There was enormous pressure, particularly in donor countries, for peacebuilding initiatives to deliver results. However, peacebuilding was a long term process with results accumulating over time. Parliaments must make sure that money was allocated to the most pressing matters, such as building effective and accountable institutions and ensuring equal access to impartial justice. It was a positive step that the SDGs were universal in contrast to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which divided the north and the south.

It was true that outside interference usually made national conflicts last longer. It was, therefore, an important concern.

Ambassador G. BÄCHLER (Special Representative for the South Caucasus, OSCE), *panellist*, said that the resolution must encourage countries to adhere to global norms on peacebuilding while also addressing local challenges. Although the United Nations Charter prohibited foreign intervention, it had reappeared in the form of humanitarian support and protection. There was, however, a big difference between protection in the name of geopolitics and protection against violence and crimes. Not every foreign intervention was about protection and peacebuilding.

Lawmakers should be responsible for ensuring coherence between sustainable development, sustainable peace and human rights in their countries. Given the broad agenda, it was essential to remain focused. That focus should be on early response and prevention. Parliament could play an important role there, as it did in Switzerland. The Swiss Government had passed a four year framework credit to implement legislation on human rights and peace. The framework gave parliamentarians a great deal of power to suggest strategies and monitor government actions.

The SDGs integrated development, security and peace keeping objectives. Those objectives were missing from the MDGs. It was imperative to work on the objectives on a global scale.

Mr. J. BORN (Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research Division, DCAF), *panellist*, said that parliaments were one of the best tools of conflict prevention as long as people spoke to each other. Parliaments should make sure the budget was well balanced. Parliamentarians should analyse the extent to which their security sector was capable of addressing drivers of conflict both at home and abroad. Although parliamentarians should push for early response and prevention, the agenda must be broken down into more specific tasks.

Mr. A. CARONI (Switzerland), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he had taken note of the inputs from the panellists and delegates. Since there was consensus that sustainable peace and development were interlinked, it would be the starting point for the resolution. The resolution would include references to other documents such as the resolution on the role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. However, it would not simply redraft old documents because it was new instrument. Parliaments could take a number of measures towards sustaining peace. In general, they should consider it a mindset to see an interlinkage between peace and development and take it into account in their daily work. More concretely, parliamentarians should

encourage the executive to incorporate the concept of sustaining peace into foreign policy. They should ensure that governments allocated adequate funds for projects, as was the case in Switzerland. They could promote the rule of law, good governance, dialogue mechanisms and inclusiveness. Finally, they played a key role in preventing violence before and around elections as well as in reconciliation processes.

Ms. M. VARGAS BARCENA (Mexico), *co-Rapporteur*, said that she would take a number of ideas with her for the resolution. They included the following: exploitation of resources should come to an end; some countries had achieved development but were then subject to interference from other countries; instead of using funds for weapons, governments should use them for sustainable development; women must participate and their rights should be defended; there was no peace without development and no development without peace. International interference led to a breakdown in peace; to achieve peace was to achieve stability. It was the responsibility of parliamentarians to channel the opinions of citizens; security resources must be used to ensure access to justice for all.

She welcomed the four year plan from the Parliament of Switzerland which monitored government and engaged parliamentarians. Parliament was a weapon for conflict prevention.

The sitting rose at 12.50 p.m.

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

SITTING OF MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.35 p.m. with Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-II/137/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held during the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that there were two posts to fill. The African Group had nominated Mr. M. Djellab (Algeria) and the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean had nominated Ms. D. Soliz (Ecuador).

The two nominations were approved.

Parliamentary contribution to the 2017 UN Climate Change Conference

The PRESIDENT said that the twenty third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) would take place in Bonn and would be co-chaired by the Governments of Germany and Fiji. The IPU, the Parliament of Fiji and the German Bundestag would organize a Parliamentary Meeting at COP 23 in order to give an opportunity to parliamentarians to receive first-hand information on climate change and interact with high level experts. The IPU had been working together with the London School of Economics and Columbia University on a study on climate change legislation. The first speaker would present the key elements of the study.

Ms. A. AVERCHENKOVA (Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics), *panellist*, said that the global mean temperature had grown every year from 1888, with 2016 being the warmest year on record. The urgency to act on climate change was, therefore, very clear. The Grantham Research Institute, Columbia Law School and the IPU had put together a database to help national parliaments address that urgency. The database tracked climate change legislation and court cases in 177 countries.

In 1997, the year in which the international community adopted the Kyoto Protocol, there had been about 70 climate change laws and policies around the world. Today, there were 1,400. Between 2009 and 2013, there had been a remarkable growth in the annual activity of parliaments around the world, with 120 laws being adopted each year. From 2013 onwards, annual legislative activity had declined, with 60 to 70 laws adopted each year. It is thought that the decline marked a shift in focus on implementation rather than legislation. Developing countries had been increasingly more active on passing climate change legislation. The number of national development plans on climate change, particularly in developing countries, was growing.

Two thirds of countries had laws specifically on climate change, but 90 per cent of climate laws concerned the energy sector. As a result, low carbon energy, such as renewable energy, and energy efficiency, remained the main drivers for climate related legislation.

The courts were also very active. The database contained over 260 court cases dealing with climate change as either its primary concern or as one of its main arguments. There were also 20 cases addressing legislation and policymaking. Those were cases in which NGOs had sued governments for their lack of ambition on climate change.

The database was an open online resource which contained 1,370 laws. It was possible to search by region, country and type of legislation as well for court cases. She welcomed questions from parliamentarians on how to use the database.

The PRESIDENT said that the next two Members of Parliament had prepared a draft outcome document which participants of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 23 would adopt in Bonn. It was important to exchange views on the document and suggest improvements.

Ms. B. HÖHN (Germany, co-Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 23), *panellist*, said that there would be an IPU meeting at COP 23 and encouraged energy and climate experts from national parliaments to attend. Parliamentarians attending the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 23 would make a decision on the outcome document in Bonn.

The highest temperatures on record had occurred in the previous three years. There had been many extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and cyclones. Countries that were not responsible for climate change were suffering the most. The Paris Agreement had been a milestone in tackling climate change since it obliged countries to define national objectives and make legally binding commitments. Parliamentarians had a duty to fulfil those objectives, particularly the objective to limit the temperature increase to 2 and even 1.5 degrees Celsius. Although, under President Trump, the US Federal Government could disengage from climate action, many state-level politicians were keen to participate.

There were three levels to consider. At the political level, it was a good sign that 168 countries had ratified the Paris Agreement. Parliamentarians should encourage other states to ratify it. States should formulate national action plans and establish concrete mitigation measures. More ambition was also needed to achieve those goals. At the technical level, countries should establish strong rules and requirements and create concrete opportunities to increase ambitions. At the action level, the international community would launch a number of climate initiatives in Bonn, including the plan from Fiji to reduce temperature increases to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius. The plan was important since it offered a small island perspective. There was also a proposal to launch an international network for parliamentarians interested in increasing renewables. Renewables were very competitive and could also help to create jobs. Germany had created 370,000 jobs in renewable energy. It was, therefore, possible to combine climate issues with the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and help combat poverty, hunger, social problems and gender discrimination. It was essential to exchange views and experiences on renewable energy.

Mr. J. USAMATE (Fiji), *panellist*, said that climate change was a matter of the present, not the future, and was already affecting small island states, such as Fiji. The oceans were a particular problem with rising sea levels removing villages, destroying traditional burial grounds and reducing access to food. Ocean acidification was killing corals. Vector-borne diseases, such as dengue fever, were spreading. Fruits were flowering at unpredictable times. Category 5 cyclones and severe floods were becoming the norm. It would take just one major weather event to completely wipe out a small island state such as Fiji. It was also inevitable that climate change displacement would take place and the world must be prepared to offer assistance.

At COP 23, the presidency of Fiji would give a voice to the small island states for whom climate change was a matter of life and death. The Paris Agreement was a huge step but states must be more ambitious. Countries in the Pacific would disappear with temperature increases of 2 degrees Celsius. States must limit temperature increases to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. It was also necessary to make funds available to small island states for adaptation purposes.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India) said that collective efforts were needed to minimise the catastrophic consequences of climate change. It was commendable that more and more developing countries were coming forward to ratify the Paris Agreement. It was also important to respect the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol. COP 23 must reiterate that the primary responsibility for reducing greenhouse gas emissions lay with developed countries, pursuant to the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities. Comprehensive work programmes for the implementation of the Paris Agreement must be in line with those principles.

India supported the decisions made under the Bali Action Plan, particularly those on providing technology transfer, finance and capacity building support to developing countries. The plan provided opportunities for mitigation without compromising economic growth. There was also a need to increase financial support for developing countries to implement mitigation and adaptation actions. The United Nations should provide more clarity on the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the type of financing available. For instance, he welcomed information on the balance between loans and grants as well as the balance between funding for adaptation versus mitigation. It was vital to conserve country driven initiatives to tackle climate change, such as the nationally determined contributions of the Paris Agreement.

India was deeply committed to tackling climate change and had taken a number of measures. For instance, the Government had designed a roadmap for nationally determined contributions for the post 2020 period and had introduced a national policy on the environment.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that the Council of the Federation had paid much attention to climate change and organised a number of events. For instance, in 2015 there had been a parliamentary hearing on the post 2015 programme of work in which participants discussed practical measures for the 2030 Agenda including climate change. Similarly, Russia had participated in the international forum entitled *Women for Energy of the Future* in September 2017.

Parliamentarians could resolve climate change through law-making and exchange of good practices. The work of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States could be useful for the IPU. The Assembly collected and made conclusions on the experiences of all countries belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Assembly had passed over 50 decisions throughout its history, including ones on climate change. The Russian Federation could also provide other states with a solid legislative framework on climate change.

Mr. L.V.F. TAMAPUA (Samoa) said that the Parliament of Samoa wished to amend the IPU outcome document in two ways. First, the document should limit temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Parliaments must make the governments of large polluting countries do more. Second, the document must mention the need to simplify the process by which small, vulnerable countries received climate finance for adaption measures. The present system was so complicated and bureaucratic that many found it difficult to access funds.

It was also important to have the support of the great powers who were in the Pacific in the late 1800s and early 1900s, particularly Germany with whom Samoa had a special relationship.

Mr. K. KEDI (Marshall Islands) said that he affiliated himself with Fiji, Samoa and other small island states from the Pacific. Climate change was an imminent threat and a human rights violation. As a low lying nation, with no hills or mountains, it threatened the very existence of the Marshall Islands. Given that small island states were small contributors to climate change, it was unjust that they were forced to deal with it. Both big and small countries must immediately show leadership on the matter.

Ms. W. BANI MUSTAFA (Jordan) said that the outcome document should express a sense of regret on the withdrawal of the USA from the Paris Agreement. To withdraw from the Agreement was to give up a common responsibility towards other countries. That was particularly true of industrial countries which had caused the greatest pollution.

In addition to the US\$ 100 billion assigned for actions on environmental protection, there should be a fund to support climate change refugees. There must be a system by which renewable energy was connected to the electricity grid continuously. Renewable energy projects should also be supported and financed, for instance through loans or grants, to allow lower income countries to benefit.

The PRESIDENT said that climate change was a crime against humanity and it was regretful that the USA had withdrawn. Parliaments did not fear the USA and could thus speak louder than governments.

Mr. D. FORCELLINI (San Marino) said that climate change was due to both human activities and natural events. Countries should look at the problem from a multidisciplinary perspective, taking into account socioeconomic and human impacts. All countries should think globally but implement local actions. Sustainability had become urgent and each parliament must play its own role in tackling climate change. Communication and dissemination of information were also fundamental.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that the panellists should explain why parliaments were not focusing enough on climate change. It would be valuable to know who was destroying the climate and to what extent. Countries would then better understand their own responsibilities. The international community must address the high costs involved in technology and knowledge transfer. Climate change was not the duty of individual parliaments but a global one.

Mr. W. WILLIAM (Seychelles), speaking on behalf of both the Seychelles and Fiji, said he would submit a nine point declaration from the small island developing states to the Secretariat. He asked for it to be made available at COP 23.

Mr. C. LLORET (Ecuador) said that it was important to strike the right balance between economic development and environmental concerns. Countries contributing most to climate change should be the first to sign agreements. There was an urgent need to implement the Paris Agreement. He welcomed the outcome document. In 2008, Ecuador had modified its constitution to recognise the rights of nature. That was a significant step towards environmental protection.

Ms. W.A. KHAN (Bangladesh) said that coastal areas in Bangladesh were inundated almost every day due to rising sea levels. Yet Bangladesh had contributed little to climate change. It was vital for the negotiations in Bonn to move from conceptual discussions to more technical work. Analyses had concluded that there would be a global temperature rise of 2.7 degrees Celsius even if all nationally determined contributions were successfully implemented. Countries should ensure that its nationally determined contribution reflected its highest possible ambition in light of domestic circumstances and recommendations from science. Rich countries must create zero carbon economies over time by phasing out high emissions. There was an urgency to make adequate financial support available to developing countries for adaptation and mitigation initiatives. The international community must make progress towards operationalising the US\$ 100 billion per year. Developing countries should receive climate funds in addition to official development assistance. The allocation process should be transparent.

Mr. J. FAKHRO (Bahrain) said that parliamentarians should press the USA and other countries who had not signed the Paris Agreement to reconsider. Globalisation was not just about the economy, but also about sustainability, human rights and environmental protection.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that his country had taken a number of measures on climate change. For instance, it was the first state in the Middle East to sign the Paris Agreement. Similarly, it had prepared a national action plan for sustainable consumption and production and established a national day for the environment. However, those measures relied on two points: first, Palestine should have control over its own territory, and second, Palestine should acquire adequate financing and resources.

Mr. N. LAZREK (Morocco) said that all parliamentarians should stand up for the recommendations of the twenty second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22). Morocco deplored the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. The country hoped to achieve 42 per cent of renewable energy by 2020 and 52 per cent by 2030. In 2016, Morocco had also inaugurated the world's largest solar plant.

Mr. H. JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (France) said that the successes of the Paris Climate Change Conference were the failures of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference. In Copenhagen, industrialised countries, that had contributed the most to climate change, had not expressed solidarity with developing countries, that were the front line victims. In Paris, however, a sense of solidarity had been understood. National legislation must reflect that solidarity. It was vital to implement more than what was agreed in Paris or countries would not achieve the target of 2 degrees Celsius. Given the shortage of funds, public sector assistance should be awarded to initiatives that benefited both climate and development simultaneously. Indeed, the French Government had recently increased its development assistance budget by 6 billion euros, half of which must go on policies of that nature. Developed countries should sign up to similar initiatives.

Mr. E. HUSSAIN ADAM (Sudan) said that developed countries were the main contributors to climate change. There was, therefore, a need to provide financial support to developing countries that did not cause it but were the main victims of it. It was not possible to achieve sustainability in light of the deterioration of the global climate. Parliamentarians should pass legislation to mitigate the severity of climate change.

Ms. A. AVERCHENKOVA (Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics), *panellist*, said that the USA could not formally withdraw from the Paris Agreement until four years after submitting the notification. It was possible that they would not withdraw, depending on the results of the next election. Furthermore, large numbers of American mayors and governors as well as one third of the US population had signed a declaration expressing their desire to stay in the Agreement.

She disagreed that parliaments were not active on climate change. In fact, many had made it their priority. Her research showed that there were about 1,400 laws and policies in place around the world, half of which had been passed by parliaments. What had been declining was the annual rate of legislative activity because countries were going into the implementation stage. There was already

good data on who was responsible for emissions. It was thought that 60 to 70 per cent came from fossil fuel combustion. She referred delegates to a recent study entitled *Carbon Majors* which traced the majority of emissions to 90 institutions around the world. Some of those institutions were state owned, others were privately owned corporations and others were government run industries.

Working on model laws and exchanging experiences was a very effective way to help parliaments. She commended the network on renewable energy. She would also be happy to share the experience of the UK climate change law.

Ms. B. HÖHN (Germany, co-Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Meeting at COP 23), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians were on the right path. Renewables were becoming a competitive option and were realistically priced. The next step was to ensure that renewables were installed. Parliamentarians were very important since they were the link between the local and national level. Parliaments should implement national laws which had a local impact.

Mr. J. USAMATE (Fiji), *panellist*, said that the Paris Agreement was a great success but that it must come to life. Parliamentarians could play a noteworthy role in that. There must also be more ambition on the commitments from Paris. Warming should be limited to 1.5 degrees or less. Otherwise, the small island states would disappear.

Debate on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*

The PRESIDENT introduced the panellists, including the two co-Rapporteurs who would draft a resolution to be adopted at the 138th IPU Assembly in Geneva.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that SDG 7 was to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. However, more than one billion people still did not have access to power grids. One solution to the problem could be off-grid renewable energy systems, particularly for remote areas in developing countries. Off-grid renewable energy, such as solar power, was cost-effective, sustainable, reliable, resilient and affordable. It could also help trigger economic development by creating jobs and increasing incomes. One success story was that of a remote area in North Africa with no power grids in which people used solar panels to pump water for irrigation purposes.

Technology was not getting to remote areas in developing countries. That was because the private sector was more inclined to get involved in big projects than small or medium ones. Small projects were associated with higher financial risks since the cost of assessment, licensing and procurement was often the same as for big projects, making each kilowatt more expensive. Similarly, small projects also had higher political risks as they required engagement both nationally and locally. There was no one solution or policy since every region was different. Some regions were more people driven, others were run by the government and others by their local electrical companies. For that reason, a dedicated platform was necessary to exchange best practices and lessons learned.

Mr. Q.A. DUONG (Viet Nam), *co-Rapporteur*, said that the majority of energy in Viet Nam was generated from fossil fuels, gas and hydropower. However, the power supply was unreliable and a problem existed with air pollution and climate change. There was much potential to use renewable energy resources but the Government had a limited budget. As a result, Viet Nam was forced to rely on the private sector to develop renewable energy. Since 2014, Viet Nam had taken a number of measures towards renewable energy usage. For example, it had raised public awareness on climate change disasters and how to switch to renewable energy. It had also issued standards for renewable energy technology and was providing training on new renewable energy technologies.

He wished to propose an incentive framework on encouraging private sector investment in renewable energy. Above all, it was important to develop a competitive electricity market and ensure that electricity prices could bring reasonable profits to the private sector. In the development phase of a project, governments should reduce tax on imported articles and offer support for domestic production. That would help keep costs down. Governments should also create favourable credit conditions for loans and provide support for land clearance. In the operation phase, they should reduce corporation tax, increase depreciation rates and offer exemptions in the field of environmental protection. There should be guarantees that renewable electricity on a private plan could be purchased at a reasonable price. Governments should also provide land infrastructure, such as grid connections.

It was also important to receive support from developed countries, for instance, in the transfer of green technologies. Parliaments should increase their cooperation on renewable energy development, poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Mr. A. WHITEMAN (Senior Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA), *panellist*, said that the main mission of IRENA was supporting the transition to renewable energy. Traditional energy supply was largely centralised, large scale and based on fossil fuels. Renewable energy, however, was scalable and its costs had fallen dramatically in recent years. It was also a very democratic source of energy since people could access it individually without being connected to a grid. The traditional energy sector sometimes saw renewable energy as a threat. IRENA ran a legislator's forum on renewable energy to which he invited all delegates.

One of the SDG targets was to increase the share of renewables in consumption. Indeed, the energy sector was shifting and the net additions to generating capacity had been higher for renewables than non-renewables in the previous five years. Currently, renewable energy accounted for about a quarter of electricity production. That figure was expected to increase.

Another SDG target was access to energy. Off-grid systems were where renewables and energy access came together. There was evidence to suggest that off-grid systems were being used but not recorded in statistics. For instance, much of Sub-Saharan Africa had no recorded solar energy production, yet hundreds of millions of dollars worth of solar panels were being imported every year. That suggested that about one billion people who were not connected to the grid, did in fact have access to solar energy. Funds were being raised very fast with a large proportion of that money going into pay-as-you-go solar companies. Many of those initiatives were happening without government help. Governments were also investing large amounts in solar energy across all SDG sectors, from health to education and communications. Parliamentarians should encourage that kind of cross-sectoral use of renewables, particularly because it was the cheapest solution. One area where there was not much growth was bioenergy. Bioenergy had the potential to increase electricity production and offer solutions that combined waste management, food production and electricity generation. So far, however, progress had been slow.

There was no one solution or policy that would fit all. Every country was different. Some preferred private sector solutions, some had utility solutions and others government solutions. However, countries should realise that renewable energy was not a charity, but an increasingly competitive business. The policy frameworks that worked were ones with a clear overall direction and supporting measures, including targets for renewables, timelines, and processes. It was imperative to pay attention to small details such as how to get access to a grid and who would pay for it.

Parliamentarians could take action on procurement and offer support to the private sector. The biggest issue was often the scaling up of renewables since it came with many risks. Although there were many willing investors, they were always nervous about the country risk. Parliaments could help mobilise private finance by offering guarantees.

The PRESIDENT said that the draft resolution would be prepared on the basis of the subsequent debate.

Mr. P. BUNSUMPUN (Thailand) said that many Thai companies could potentially contribute to the SDGs with 17 listed on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. Those companies set their own targets in relation to the SDGs. Government policy on renewable energy had led to significant and continuous growth in renewable energy consumption with substantial investment coming from the private sector. Thailand aimed to increase the share of renewable energy consumption to 30 per cent by 2036. For more than a decade, the country had encouraged local communities to become self-reliant on green energy.

The Thai delegation recommended that parliaments encouraged further uptake of renewable energy, promoted research and ensured energy efficiency. Parliaments should also encourage private sector investment, promote knowledge and technology transfer both nationally and internationally and pass legislation to facilitate renewable energy development. School curricula must incorporate environmental protection and knowledge of the SDGs.

Ms. S.M. DINICĂ (Romania) said that the Romanian Parliament had taken a number of measures in the energy field. For instance, it had amended a law promoting renewable energy sources and was making Romania's 2030 energy strategy a legally binding requirement. The Parliament had also passed a law on public private partnerships and hoped to create a lobby register. Those measures would increase cooperation between the state and the business sector.

The Romanian delegation wished to make several proposals for the draft resolution. First, the resolution should emphasise the importance of transparent, inclusive and accountable policy and decision making processes on renewable energy. In particular, public consultation should be

compulsory in all relevant governmental and parliamentary procedures. Second, it should mention the importance of having a medium and long term national energy strategy which met sustainable development targets. The strategy should be based on political consensus, widespread public support, a strong legal foundation and adequate institutional and budgetary frameworks. Third, the resolution must highlight the need to improve national regulatory frameworks establishing rules of collaboration between policymakers, the business sector and civil society. Fourth, it must lay down measures aiming to ensure secure and sustainable energy at affordable prices.

Ms. A. THEOLOGOU (Cyprus) said that the private sector was the pillar of a nation's economy thus should be a major player in SDG implementation. The private sector could take much credit for many research and technological developments in the field of energy. It should be involved not only in production and distribution, but also in the preparation of any future strategy. Despite progress, many companies still fail to recognise their responsibility and contribution towards clean energy. When left alone private companies concentrated on financial benefits and did not incorporate sustainable development targets into their growth agenda. That was the case in Cyprus which was recovering from an economic crisis. National parliaments must pass legislation and scrutinise government policy to engage the private sector. Only with honest collaboration of all sectors of society could countries achieve the 2030 agenda.

Mr. H.B. KAMBHAMPATI (India) said that parliamentarians had a responsibility to facilitate greater participation of stakeholders such as the private sector in the entire cycle of power generation, transmission and distribution. India was implementing a national solar programme which had seen high levels of private sector participation. For instance, the country was installing a wide range of solar packs and encouraging households to install their own rooftop solar systems. India had also pioneered a global platform with France entitled the International Solar Alliance. It was important to ensure that companies were not solely attracted to economic benefits but were also looking at social implications.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that laws were irrelevant unless the government followed them up with programmes and financing. Although Russia had substantial hydrocarbon resources, it aspired towards renewable energy. The country was generating solar energy in many remote regions, for instance, in Siberia. Other measures included adopting a government decree on an incentive mechanism for renewable energy and endorsing a state programme on energy efficiency. Russia also planned to enact a law subjecting enterprises and regions to energy monitoring.

The resolution should emphasise the importance of allocating grants for small and medium enterprises as well as for training personnel on the topic.

Mr. S.Y. KIM (Republic of Korea) said that there had been much progress in the field of renewable energy. For instance, global investment in renewables stood at a record high and renewable energy accounted for almost one third of global power capacity. Although Korea had also witnessed considerable growth in renewables, the total capacity was still very low. To address the matter, the Government had adopted a renewable energy implementation plan aiming to generate 20 per cent of all electricity from renewable sources by 2030. Similarly, it was encouraging public private partnerships by making it mandatory for public institutions to install renewable energy equipment. The Government had also readopted a feed-in tariff and installed generation subsidy programmes to encourage private investment.

Mr. J. AL HAI (United Arab Emirates) said that parliaments should create favourable conditions that would encourage private sector participation in renewable energy. Seminars should be held with experts from both public and private sectors, local and regional organisations as well as human rights groups. It was also necessary to maintain an ongoing dialogue between governments, the private sector, citizens and civil society.

The United Arab Emirates attached great importance to programmes for sustainable development, environmental protection and social and economic improvement. The Government had taken initiatives on clean energy. For instance, there was a solar energy station in Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates would be the first Arab country to have nuclear energy.

Ms. D. DLAKUDE (South Africa) said that South Africa had one of the best programmes in the world on renewable energy: the *Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme*. The programme aimed to increase private sector participation, create jobs particularly for disadvantaged groups and boost the participation of previously disadvantaged businesses in the energy mix. So far it had yielded many positive results. For instance, the programme had attracted ZAR 200 billion of domestic and foreign investment and generated 6,422 megawatts of renewable electricity from independent power procurements. It had also created 30,000 jobs and generated over ZAR 15 billion for socioeconomic initiatives including youth empowerment.

Mr. Y. NI (China) said that China had been working to improve its energy mix. It was committed to using clean and low carbon energies and promoting efficient use of fossil fuels. China had taken a number of measures including passing laws on renewable energy. It had also introduced a monitoring and assessment system to ensure efficient use of renewable energy, particularly at local level. For the past five years, the country had been the largest investor of renewable energy with a capacity amounting to 36 per cent of the total power. China had provided incentives and guidance for private enterprises, 100 of which had appeared in the top 500 energy efficient companies in the world. In 2016, the renewable energy market also created 3.4 million jobs.

Ms. W.A. KHAN (Bangladesh) said that energy was a key ingredient in eliminating poverty and improving socioeconomic conditions. The Government of Bangladesh had taken many measures to promote renewable energy. For example, all parliamentarians were obliged to spend half of their yearly allocation for development on renewable energy projects. A number of fiscal incentives had been extended to renewable energy project developers and investors. Funding was available both from government institutions and private banks. There was also a duty exemption on some renewable products such as solar panels and LED lights.

Mr. A. ESMAEILI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the main source of energy in the Islamic Republic of Iran was fossil fuels but the country also had much potential for renewable energy. Iran had implemented a policy to encourage the engagement of the private sector. For instance, there were tax exemptions and guarantees that renewable electricity from the private sector would be purchased. It was also important to raise awareness of the environmental and economic benefits of renewable energy.

Mr. D. FORCELLINI (San Marino) said that the SDGs would only be achieved if the whole of society did their part. Public private agreements would engage both parliaments and the private sector. It was particularly important for the industrial services and education sector to be involved. Acting locally to improve global conditions was the optimum way to achieve the SDGs.

Ms. J.N. MHLANGA (Zimbabwe) said that Zimbabwe had enormous solar energy potential. The country should harness that potential along with other clean energies to accelerate economic growth. Government and private players must work together to increase the country's share of renewable energy. One initiative already in place was the *Sustainable Energy for All* campaign. The Government should also develop energy plans, provide financial support and remove counterproductive tariffs and subsidies. Companies should make their operations more energy efficient and form public private partnerships. Investors could provide money for clean technology and subsidise on- and off-grid energy solutions. Industry, government and academia could contribute to technology innovation. Civil society groups should train entrepreneurs, engage in advocacy and demand accountability. The media must also show a will to raise awareness.

Ms. V. SARUNDAJANG (Indonesia) said that governments should establish a collaborative mechanism among SDG stakeholders which must be available locally. They should also include SDG issues in education, clarify the role of the private sector in sustainable development and strengthen public private partnerships. Clear regulations both in terms of incentives and technical partnerships must be available. More innovative ways to mobilise resources were necessary. Funds were needed to encourage the private sector to formulate corporate policy based on sustainable development. Governments should facilitate the transfer of green technologies from developed to developing countries.

The Indonesian Parliament had passed a number of laws such as the law on the protection and management of the environment. Although Indonesia had tremendous hydropower, solar, wind and bioenergy potential, it utilised only two per cent of that potential.

Mr. S. KAVCIOĞLU (Turkey) said that Turkey already had a substantial share of renewable energy compared to EU countries but hoped to increase it further by 2030. It had huge renewable energy potential with the capacity for hydraulic, wind and geothermal energy. The share of hydraulic energy was the biggest but wind and solar power was also expected to increase. Under the YEKA project, wind farms of 1,000 megawatts were being built in five different regions with an emphasis on local production.

Ms. A. MULDER (Netherlands) said that all parliamentarians must be ambassadors for the SDGs. Taxpayers should finance the transition to renewable energy, as was the case in the Netherlands. Governments must use revolving funds to finance the transition in a sustainable way. The Dutch development bank, FMO, awarded loans for high risk investments, for instance, those in high risk countries. It was a strategy that was paying off. The Netherlands was keen to deliver on the Paris commitments either with the EU or with other countries.

Mr. E. HUSSAIN ADAM (Sudan) said that Sudan had great solar energy potential but had been unable to harness it due to the embargo. The country was now working towards renewable energy. In particular, the Government was taking measures to involve the private sector through incentives.

Mr. N. LAZREK (Morocco) said that the private sector had an indispensable role to play which was evident in the experience of the Moroccan town of Salé. The town had set up a public private partnership for public lighting. The objectives of the partnership were to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, reduce energy consumption and make light more readily available, particularly to the poorer neighbourhoods. Although the partnership was only able to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 600 tons per year, there would be considerably more reductions if the project was carried out on a wide scale. It was important to encourage similar public private partnerships elsewhere.

In addition, parliaments should pass laws to encourage the participation of multinational companies. Governments must also look for financing, for instance, from carbon funds.

Mr. Z. HEMSY (Jordan) said that the refugee crisis had put tremendous pressure on the economy of Jordan. Nevertheless, the country had adopted a 2020 renewable energy strategy and passed laws aiming to encourage private sector participation in the renewable energy sector. The Government had set up contracts and committed to buying renewable energy from private companies. It was also important to store renewable energy. Production of renewable energy changed from day to day and season to season. A sufficient quantity must be available at prices that were affordable for developing countries.

Mr. K. ABDULLAH (Kuwait) said that Kuwait could not do much with solar energy due to air pollution from dust. There were also several other challenges concerning renewable energy such as a lack of planning, a limited market and a lack of funds with banks unwilling to invest. Presently, the private sector did not get enough encouragement. There were three ways to promote renewables: force them upon society, create awareness or give incentives. He asked the panellists what was the best solution for Kuwait.

Mr. A. JAFFAR (Bahrain) said that all countries must encourage the private sector to invest in renewable energy by providing support and financial incentives. Parliamentarians must pass laws to encourage citizens to use renewable energy. The Gulf States were investing more in renewable energy and were preparing for the post oil period. Bahrain hoped to increase its share of renewable energy to 10 per cent by 2035.

Mr. S. SEKATLE (Lesotho) said that the challenge for developing countries was creating an environment conducive to investment. The challenge had received little attention since trading partners had vested interest in keeping it that way. Although there was tremendous potential for solar, wind and hydropower in developing countries, the technology and finance lay elsewhere. That contradiction must be addressed.

Mr. A. GRYFFROY (Belgium), *co-Rapporteur*, said that there was no doubt that countries were keen to achieve the SDGs. The question was how to achieve them. There was no silver bullet. Technology was always evolving. Kuwait could use drones to identify problems in energy production.

Belgium had provided many financial incentives for renewable energy. Currently, 10 to 15 per cent of households owned a solar panel, not because of the SDGs but because it was financially interesting. Given the demand, solar panels could then be mass produced which caused prices to fall.

The role of parliaments was key in promoting renewable energy in developing countries. Parliaments must adopt policy and pass legislation. They must establish platforms to share best practices and lessons learnt. They must incorporate renewable energy into education and promote research and development. Public private partnerships were one solution but were not always easy to organise. Engaging local communities was also crucial since a top down policy would not work.

Mr. Q.A. DUONG (Viet Nam), *co-Rapporteur*, said that he aligned himself with Mr. Gryffroy. The resolution was a difficult one because it aimed to encourage the private sector not only to implement the SDGs, but specifically to invest in renewable energy. Renewable energy was a very wide-ranging sector ranging from solar to wind and hydropower. A "one size fits all" solution did not exist.

Mr. A. WHITEMAN (Senior Programme Officer, IRENA), *panellist*, said that the representative of Kuwait had summed up well the three government approaches to renewable energy: raise awareness, force society through regulation or pay people through incentives. All those policies had a place depending on the circumstances. As a large oil producer where energy was fairly cheap, Kuwait would probably have to force society or use incentives. It was also important to change wasteful habits. For instance, heating water using electricity was very wasteful in sunny countries where solar water

heaters could be easily used. He commended Bangladesh and India whose governments had encouraged off-grid solutions in contrast to Africa. The markets existed, the technology was available and there was a huge demand for energy. Creating awareness and offering small incentives could be enough to get started. After that, energy would lead to economic development and people would want to use it more and more.

The sitting rose at 5.55 p.m.

SITTING OF TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 4.40 p.m. with Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), Vice-President of the Committee, in the Chair.

Panel discussion on *Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards*

Dr. F. Bustreo, Assistant Director-General, World Health Organisation (WHO), took the chair as Moderator.

The MODERATOR said that the discussion was part of an ongoing collaboration between the IPU and WHO to ensure that scientific evidence informed parliamentary action, whether policy, legislation, financing, advocacy or accountability. Health was a critical dimension in the political discourse. The IPU and WHO had identified several challenges in women's, children's and adolescents' health that had arisen in parliamentary debates. Those included immunisation, sexual and reproductive health and epidemics. Panellists should discuss the parliamentary debate on health in their own countries and the benefits of backing up that debate with science. She asked the first speaker, Ms. N. Luo, to share her views on how parliaments could build connections with the science and research community. She should also explain how parliamentarians could obtain the necessary information to make informed decisions.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians must be abreast of scientific developments. However, it was not adequate for them to receive information indirectly, for instance, from a library. They must get it first-hand from the researchers themselves. By being in direct contact with scientists, Zambia discovered why HIV was spreading among young girls who were not born with the infection. It was due to child marriage. The Government could then respond appropriately through a strategic plan, campaign and legal framework. It was important that those measures were evidence-based. They needed to take into account robust, scientific data on child marriage and infection rates, not only of HIV but also syphilis, gonorrhoea and cervical cancer. Without evidence, it was difficult to convince people that there was a problem. Parliamentarians should fight for more money to go into scientific research.

The MODERATOR asked the second speaker, Ms. P. Locatelli, to discuss the experience of Italy in dealing with vaccine hesitancy. She should explain how Italy took action against the dissemination of misconceptions, myths and false news that opposed immunisation.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *panellist*, said that the dissemination of misleading, anti-scientific ideas, fake news and hoaxes was not recent in Italy and was not confined to health. Although vaccines had eradicated many diseases, such as polio, a certain part of the Italian population mistrusted them. The media was key in steering public opinion and had wrongly convinced more than half of parents that vaccines could cause serious illnesses. As a result, public health was suffering. For instance, Italy only had 85 per cent of vaccine coverage for measles, whilst 95 per cent was needed to be safe from the illness. The country was, therefore, the first in Europe and fifth in the world for cases of measles. The situation had forced the Government to take action and introduce a law which made 12 children's vaccines compulsory, although later they reduced it to 10. In response to the law, politicians and scientists were accused of being under the thumb of big pharmaceutical companies. The law was in fact based on scientific evidence which proved the positive effects of vaccines. Although it was a good step, the law had come too late. The country should ensure better coordination on countering false news and set up an independent scientific committee. Science-based evidence must guide political activity and governments should educate people early.

The MODERATOR said that policy planning was not just a technical process of translating science and knowledge into politics but one which required a continuous dialogue between health experts and policymakers. Dissemination of inaccurate information, however, undermined that dialogue. She asked the third speaker, Ms. E. Baybarina, to explain how parliamentarians could bridge the gap. She should also discuss how to ensure that robust, scientific findings continuously informed health policy.

Ms. E. BAYBARINA (Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, member of the WHO Human Reproduction Programme Policy and Coordination Committee), *panellist*, said that it was imperative to oppose the anti-vaccine movement and prevent the spread of diseases. A mechanism to promote interaction between health experts and parliamentarians was necessary. In Russia, the Ministry of Health, the State Duma and the Council of the Federation worked in close conjunction with each other and carried out many joint projects. The Ministry of Health headed many of the most prominent scientific research centres in Russia and employed advisors with great scientific authority, expertise and knowledge. Working groups on maternal and child health involved both members of the Ministry of Health and medical experts, thereby promoting a reliable and accurate information exchange. One of the issues discussed was the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Communication was key in changing people's behavioural patterns and diagnostic tests were also important. As a result of the above efforts, the Russian Parliament was well informed of major scientific findings.

The MODERATOR asked the fourth speaker, Dr. A. Rios, whether there was an inherent tension between science and politics and whether it was possible to resolve that tension.

Dr. A. RIOS (Associate Professor, University of Texas), *panellist*, said that the common good, as advocated by Immanuel Kant, should always prevail. It was paramount to go back to that principle when analysing the tension between science and politics. One reason for the tension was the perception each camp had of the other. Scientists saw politicians as divorced from knowledge and understanding, whilst politicians saw scientists as absorbed in an ivory tower. Indeed, over the previous few centuries, science had worked on a relatively small scale. It had been concerned with analysis as opposed to synthesis. It had strived to understand nature as opposed to predict its behaviour. However, the world was in transition and science must now become bolder. The tension could be resolved if the two camps saw each other not as two different entities, but two of the same. Politicians must understand how scientific methods were practiced and scientists must appreciate how politicians went about their work. Both were human beings working towards the common good.

Auguste Comte spoke about altruism. It would be beneficial to introduce an international code of ethics among scientists similar to the Hippocratic Oath of physicians. Scientists would commit to achieving the common good. It was important to move away from society's obsession with growth.

The MODERATOR asked the fifth speaker, Mr. P. Kakkattil, to discuss his experience of establishing mechanisms between policymakers, scientists and civil society at UNAIDS. She asked him to share key lessons and recommendations for parliamentarians.

Mr. P. KAKKATTIL (Director of Programme Partnerships, Innovations and Fundraising, UNAIDS), *panellist*, said that the cost of treatment for HIV and AIDS in the early nineties was US\$ 100,000 per person per year. In 2017, it had dropped to US\$ 75 per person per year. Similarly, treatment that used to be available only in the developed world was now available to everyone. It was important to analyse what made that success possible. Data was key, but data without action was useless. First, it was necessary to analyse how to get information that would lead to action. In the case of young girls with HIV in Zambia, information on child marriage would come from communities rather than scientists. Second, it was essential to bring political leaders from all sectors of society into the conversation. For example, reductions in the price of HIV medicines would have commercial, economic, legal as well as health implications. All of those sectors must, therefore, have an input. Third, there must be a more fruitful conversation between policymakers and scientists on how to implement the data they receive. Fourth, policymakers must obtain data in a timely manner and receive real time feedback on successes and failures. There should also be efforts to limit the obstacles preventing action. For instance, it was unlikely that a country would take action on high HIV rates immediately before an election.

The MODERATOR said that the WHO had had a similar experience with the meningococcal meningitis vaccine. By breaking down the silence, scientists were able to develop a vaccine within three years. It was now being used in sub-Saharan Africa which used to have a severe problem with the disease. Public health successes were possible but required triangulation to ensure that knowledge was brought to the policymaker at the right time.

It was also important to discuss how governments handled outbreaks, such as zika and ebola. Outbreaks had the additional complication that decisions must be made quickly. They also required the enforcement of measures that were often seen as non-democratic, such as travel restrictions and quarantine.

The representative of BANGLADESH said that Bangladesh was using telemedicine, mobile health and evidence-based treatment to cut down the hospital stay and expenses of patients. Research and technology was necessary in both treatment and prevention. It was not a matter of discussion but a matter requiring action.

The representative of SOUTH AFRICA said that a comprehensive and sustainable research ecology in Africa was vital. That would require the engagement of politicians as well as huge financial injections which Africa did not have. In Africa, wholesale looting of finances, through illicit financial outflows, base erosions, profit shifting and other tax evasion mechanisms, was common. He called on parliaments to speak to multinational companies and stop the wholesale looting of finances, especially in the African mining sector. Looting was depriving the continent of much needed resources which could be beneficial for the healthcare sector.

The representative of SLOVENIA said that the ageing population and increased life expectancy meant that ensuring appropriate healthcare was a priority. Slovenia was aware of the importance of investing in science and research. It participated in some international research infrastructures such as the European Life Science Infrastructure for Biological Information. In 2016, the country also founded over three hundred research programmes. The IPU was an important element in the effort to deliver higher healthcare standards. However, it was up to parliamentarians to ensure that measures were put into national legislation, subjected to control and monitoring mechanisms and effectively implemented.

The representative of JORDAN said that both politicians and scientists played a role in healthcare. Scientists from all over the world provided research, whilst politicians could engage with local realities. In Jordan, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Higher Population Council provided the Parliaments with information relevant to health policy.

Early marriage was also on the rise in Jordan. After carrying out analyses, the Government discovered that slightly less than half of early marriages happened among Syrian refugee girls. The Parliament responded by issuing a regulation which introduced some conditions on early marriage. First, the man must not be married to someone else. Second, the girl must not be less than 15 years old. Third, the girl must be able to go to school.

Before passing a recent law on mental health, the Parliament formed a joint committee involving all relevant stakeholders, such as scientists, psychiatrists and politicians. Thanks to the committee, all stakeholders were well informed and could come up with high quality legislation. Politics and science were interconnected.

The MODERATOR said that health problems were not confined by borders, as exemplified by the problem of child marriage among Syrian refugees. It was often seen as a form of protection for Syrian families in Jordan.

The representative of the UNITED ARAB EMIRATES said that his country paid special attention to health and research. The country wished to transition from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. It had set up several research centres, launched a national strategy on innovation and established the Mohamed Bin Rashid Innovation Fund worth AED 2 billion. It had also set up a directorate within the Department of Health aiming to formulate new and innovative ideas in the health sector.

Parliamentarians must pass health laws and visit health and research centres to stay informed. Parliaments should sign memorandums of understanding with accredited health centres and form synergies with them. They should urge governments to create partnerships with civil society and the private sector and encourage them through incentives. Parliaments should ensure there was proper and sufficient funding for healthcare. They should also encourage more health research but ensure that clinical trials on humans and animals were in line with human rights principles.

The MODERATOR said that the innovation fund was a significant development and would assist many countries. Clinical research was indeed crucial and should be guided by public interests as well as private ones.

The representative of PAKISTAN said that robust scientific evidence was needed to inform legislation and policy on health system strengthening. However, the ability of parliaments to apply scientific evidence in oversight and legislation was often restricted due to lack of resources. There was a need to bridge that gap, for instance by making more finances available and building up parliamentary research services. The Senate of Pakistan had introduced some substantial reforms. For instance, it had doubled the resources of the central library. Access to reliable, timely and politically neutral information was essential for the proper functioning of democratic legislatures.

The representative of SAN MARINO said that governments must pass on scientific findings to their societies. They could do so on several levels, such as, through industrial stakeholders or communities. They could do so in different ways, such as, by applying the findings to specific fields or through dissemination or communication. Scientific research was fundamentally important to improve quality of life and human development. For instance, it could help develop cures for some life-threatening diseases. Parliaments all over the world should ensure citizens were aware of the potential of science and research.

The representative of SUDAN said that health research was a basic requirement for all countries. Developed countries had traditionally benefited from medical discoveries and technologies, leading to better health standards and a higher quality of life. Low income countries should receive support to establish their own national research centres. Despite the embargo, Sudan had worked closely with the WHO to improve health in the country. One positive development was the effort to overcome diseases such as polio, meningitis and AIDs. He requested greater cooperation between countries and organisations to overcome diseases. Sudan had allocated a budget for health research.

The representative of PANAMA said that prevention was the most important aspect of health care. There must be a strong link between science and parliament to achieve that objective. So far, scientists had only tested four HIV vaccine concepts. He asked whether it was possible to have an inactivated HIV vaccine, as with polio.

The representative of the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN said that his country was one of the most advanced developing countries in terms of providing healthcare to its people. The country had put in place a number of national strategies, policies and laws on health and treatment. Knowledge and technology transfer was crucial in achieving internationally agreed objectives in developing countries. Scientific findings must play a central role in the formulation of health-related legislation and policy in parliament. Parliamentarians should share best practices.

The MODERATOR said that technology transfer was very important to achieve equity in the world.

The representative of INDIA said that India had actively promoted science and research as a means to improve access to healthcare. The Government took a multidisciplinary approach to health research and guaranteed adequate funds for it. The Indian Council of Medical Research prioritised research and innovation on healthcare challenges, particularly of the under privileged. It was especially important to recognise the tribal population who lived under difficult circumstances and suffered from various diseases. The Government had, therefore, set up the Tribal Health Research Forum to deal with their specific health concerns

Over the years, India had improved health infrastructure remarkably. Besides promoting mobile and online health services, the country had also been involved in the development of affordable technologies for drug production and medical services. There were also many international and national fellowship programmes to enable graduates to train for biomedical research. Translating research outcomes into action was the best way to achieve the best possible health standards.

The representative of MOROCCO said that countries could not deny the importance of scientific research in policymaking. They must also take into account environmental health risks such as those arising from food. Parliaments should tackle misinformation, particularly on vaccines, and ensure that the pharmaceutical industry did not operate purely for commercial interests. Natural remedies could replace some pharmaceutical medicines such as those for arthritis. All countries must look to preventative medicine, with nutrition and sport playing a fundamental role.

The MODERATOR said that WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on Immunisation gave recommendations on the vaccines that could be used in certain countries. The group was completely independent from the WHO Secretariat as well as from the pharmaceutical industry. It conducted discussions in public.

The representative of ALGERIA said that the number of doctors in Algeria had increased dramatically since independence but many had immigrated to developed countries. In Algeria, healthcare was free for both residents and non-residents. However, the emergence of some communicable and some non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, was a major problem. The link between science and politics was not just a double link but a triple one, involving both governments and parliaments. At governmental level, the President of Algeria would receive scientific and policy reports directly. At parliamentary level, there was a scientific monitoring group to ensure that the Parliament was relying on the correct knowledge.

Parliamentarians must make sure that science did not become a dogma. Science could not be viewed in isolation since it was linked to many other aspects of society such as religion and ethics. For instance, some medical scourges had a social cause.

The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA said that the media must promote policies that were based on science, such as anti-smoking policies. Research showed that tobacco was bad for health and that smoking rates dropped with price increases. Yet many politicians were reluctant to raise the price. One reason for that reluctance was that the media portrayed tobacco as popular among low income people and comforting for people under stress. As a result, raising the price of tobacco was perceived as a move against the will of low income people. Countries should establish a platform for discussion where researchers, policymakers and the media came together to discuss policy on the basis of scientific evidence. The same should apply in the case of pandemics.

The representative of INDONESIA said that the economy and health were inseparable, especially for women. Healthy females had better access to the labour market and higher earnings which, in turn, stimulated economic development. Indonesia's national health insurance programme aimed to reach the whole population by 2019. The IPU Members should boost trade in pharmaceuticals by making them affordable. They should also support health research and development and share best practices, particularly on non-communicable diseases. She emphasised the need to develop multisectoral collaboration on health equity by carrying out comprehensive training and studying the social determinants of health. Indonesia had allocated five per cent of its budget to health improvement, more than half of which it spent on prevention and health promotion. The country supported research and development of vaccines and medicines for communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affected developing countries. Pursuant to the Doha Declaration on the terms of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and public health, developing countries should have flexibility in circumventing intellectual property rights for better access to medicines.

The MODERATOR said that evidence and knowledge in economic terms could largely influence decision makers and financiers.

Ms. N. LUO (Zambia), *panellist*, said that the press was extremely important since it could either destroy or build. It tended to use sensationalist reporting methods whilst science must be factual. Science and research must engage the press along with all other stakeholders.

Many stakeholders, especially the executive, were interested in the money that came from tobacco. However, they did not pay attention to the destruction that tobacco had caused in society. Parliaments must push the anti-smoking agenda by collecting as much research as possible on tobacco-induced cancers.

She emphasised the need to put science, research and technology together and use it effectively as legislators.

Ms. P.E. LOCATELLI (Italy), *panellist*, said that the topic was not a matter for discussion but one requiring decisions to be taken based on scientific evidence. In Italy, politicians tended to "follow" rather than "lead". They often made decisions according to the mainstream but the mainstream was not always correct, as was the case with vaccines. It was right to place some responsibility on the media, but parliamentarians must also fulfil their obligations. Child marriage was indeed a real problem in refugee camps in Jordan. Although it was positive that the phenomenon had been discovered, Jordan had not taken the correct measures to counteract it.

Dr. A. RIOS (Associate Professor, University of Texas), *panellist*, said that there was a vast gap between developed and developing nations on intellectual property. It was crucial for countries to become autonomous and promote creativity and innovation. Countries must not be afraid to compromise for the common good.

Mr. P. KAKKATTIL (Director of Programme Partnerships, Innovations and Fundraising, UNAIDS), *panellist*, said that he would address three points. First, the role of technology was changing the world but it was not changing how policymakers and scientists engaged with each other. It was important to assess how technology could be used across countries. There was no reason why research should be the domain of just one part of the world. Second, there should be more investment in innovation which solved real problems on the ground. Third, countries must engage communities and translate resources into results for the people most in need.

The MODERATOR said that living a healthy and fulfilling life was a basic human right and fundamental to achieving the sustainable development goals. Parliaments were uniquely placed to meet that goal. They should prioritise evidence-based actions, guarantee financial investment and make decisions to ensure no one was left behind, including women and children.

The sitting rose at 6.30 p.m.

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

SITTING OF SUNDAY, 15 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 2.40 p.m. with Mr. A. Avsan (Sweden), President of the Standing Committee, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(C-IV/137/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Approval of the summary record of the Committee's session held at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka (April 2017)

The summary record was approved.

Elections to the Bureau

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had recommended Ms. A.D. Dagban-Zonvide (Togo) to fill the vacancy for the African Group.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had recommended that Ms. G. Ortiz González (Mexico) and Ms. A. Bimendina (Kazakhstan) be suspended for failing to attend meetings.

It was so decided.

Panel discussion: *The parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making*

The PRESIDENT said that the discussion would focus on the role of the United Nations in global governance and its relationships with the IPU. In spring 2018, the United Nations General Assembly would debate the biannual UN resolution on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. It was a good time to reflect on the original vision behind the relationship and consider how to build on the success story. He introduced the speakers who would give presentations.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), *panellist*, said that citizens were disillusioned by international organisations, such as the United Nations, since they lacked transparency and accountability. There was a need to bridge the democracy gap in such organisations, for instance, by adding a parliamentary dimension. International relations was no longer the purview of the executive alone but that of all the people's representatives, both from the majority and the opposition. A two way relationship was required. The United Nations would receive suggestions from national parliaments, for instance, through the IPU. They would adopt conventions, treaties, protocols and other documents. National parliaments would then implement those documents nationally by adopting legislation, allocating a budget and ensuring oversight.

There had been a campaign for a UN parliamentary assembly for many decades. Such an assembly would be composed of parliamentarians elected nationally who would oversee the work of the United Nations. The IPU approach was different. The IPU strived to foster continual connections and communication between the United Nations and parliamentarians on specific thematic debates. It was also pushing for parliamentarians to be included in the national delegations that attended UN meetings. It was not enough to simply recognise the value of a parliamentary component at the United Nations. Parliamentarians must also be part of the conversation. They would then be better placed to take the knowledge back to their home parliaments.

There had been many institutional milestones between the IPU and United Nations. They included the signing of cooperation agreements, the granting of UN observer status to the IPU and the setting up of the permanent IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. There were also many modalities of work. The IPU would collect resolutions, decisions and other outcomes from parliamentarians and inject those into UN deliberations. It regularly followed UN proceedings, ensured parliamentarians could attend main UN meetings and identified spaces where parliamentarians could

best share their perspectives. The IPU also organised regular events in the context of UN meetings, including on climate change and migration. In follow-up to those events, the IPU reported back to parliamentarians and encouraged further parliamentary action. IPU-UN cooperation had brought some good results. Although the IPU had a limited capacity, it was a tremendous organisation in terms of membership and outreach. UN specialised agencies were approaching the IPU for support increasingly more often.

Despite many advancements in the first 15 years of cooperation, the relationship had reached a plateau which needed to be overcome. At least five broad challenges remained. First, there was an asymmetry between the political input that parliaments and the IPU could provide to the United Nations versus what the United Nations could give in return. Political input from the IPU was not always taken on board by the United Nations. The United Nations was more willing to recognise the role of parliaments in helping governments stick to agreed commitments. The key to making parliamentary positions resonate more at the United Nations was for parliamentarians to foster a more active relationship with their permanent representatives to the United Nations. For instance, parliamentarians should ask for more hearings with the ambassador or with the minister in charge of the issue. Second, there were limited resources. The work of both the IPU and United Nations had grown exponentially in recent years. As a result, it was not always possible to follow through on commitments, as had been the case with the 2011 Draft Istanbul Declaration: *Renewed and strengthened global partnership for the development of least developed countries*. The Declaration contained a great deal of content on the role of parliaments but the IPU was unable to mobilise funds to implement the action plan. Third, the United Nations relied more on the private sector and civil society as partners than on parliaments. At best, parliamentary engagement was discussed as an extension of civil society. Fourth, parliamentarians were not always aware of the vision for a parliamentary dimension at the United Nations. It could be because parliamentarians were too busy with local issues or because the IPU had not provided enough information to parliamentarians. There could also be problems with a given parliament's own absorptive capacities. Fifth, UN processes were long and tedious and parliamentarians did not always have the time or the appetite to deal with them. There was a need to identify priorities.

Every two years the UN Secretary-General issued a report on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU which was followed by a General Assembly resolution. The next report and resolution would be issued in 2018. More information was currently needed on how the United Nations was working with national parliaments. The IPU welcomed any information or recommendations which it would pass on to the United Nations. It would also keep Members informed. The resolution aimed to capture the three way relationship between the IPU, national parliaments and the entire UN system – both headquarters and country teams. In the past, country teams tended not to see parliaments as a partner. In developing countries, for instance, parliaments were regarded as a recipient of technical assistance. Similarly, country teams used to go through governments to speak to parliaments. The situation, however, was changing and a more direct, interactive relationship was now evident. With the support of parliamentarians, the IPU hoped to make its relationships with the United Nations a strategic partnership.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), *panellist*, said that, the perspectives of the United Nations and IPU inevitably differed. The majority of governments of the world were elected with less than a majority of the popular vote; hence, very few governments could claim to represent all of their people at the United Nations. Through the IPU all parliamentarians, from both the government and opposition, could have their voices heard at the United Nations. It was rare for governments to send parliamentarians to follow the work of the United Nations. The IPU and its Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs had some weight at the United Nations and were the only real platforms where parliamentarians in opposition could speak. As a Committee member, he had been able to attend UN conferences and express opinions which were completely different to the opinions of his Government. It was important to maintain that profile since the opinions of parliamentarians in opposition mattered. Unfortunately, those parliamentarians who did participate at the United Nations often did not provide much feedback to their home parliaments. Communication in that respect must be improved. The Committee had also given him the opportunity to visit UN field missions, for instance in Haiti. There, the United Nations worked with schools, hospitals, security systems, non-governmental organisations and municipalities, but did not work with parliaments. That was a problem since the elected representatives were closest to the people and thus should participate in UN actions on the ground. The IPU should not only talk but also act by insisting on parliamentary activity at the United Nations, particularly in the field. In Canada, senators were establishing a new committee to examine how draft laws could help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The committee would ensure the SDG agenda was discussed across the whole legislative process.

The PRESIDENT asked parliamentarians to take the floor in response to the panellists' presentations. Parliamentarians should explain the challenges they had experienced in making their own voices heard at the United Nations. They should suggest ways to make the relationship between the IPU and United Nations more effective. They should also offer concrete proposals for the new resolution.

Mr. A.K. AZAD (Bangladesh) said that transparency and accountability were indeed a problem both globally and nationally. Migration and climate change were also major challenges. He asked how the IPU could mobilise funds and rectify staff shortages. He inquired whether it was possible for the IPU to report mispending of funds on UN field missions to the UN General Assembly. He asked whether there were specific areas where cooperation between the IPU and United Nations was particularly necessary. The IPU must act and not only talk.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), *panellist*, said that the IPU did not have the financial or human resources to spend longer than a few days on field missions. Countries preferred to spend more money on defence than on peaceful initiatives that the IPU and United Nations could carry out jointly. As a result, the IPU did not have a mechanism to report failures in UN field missions. Nevertheless, the IPU did contribute to diplomacy by providing a platform for parliamentarians to communicate.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), *panellist*, said that the quality of the relationship between the United Nations and the IPU was a reflection of the relationship between governments and parliaments nationally. In many cases, governments were not regularly informing parliamentarians about their position on key issues at the United Nations. It was important to encourage and assist parliamentarians to claim their rights and ask for more information. At the very least, parliamentarians should receive and discuss their respective country's report to the Universal Periodic Review at the UN Human Rights Council.

There were no immediate answers on the lack of financing. The IPU had attracted some extra budgetary funds and launched programmes in new areas such as youth participation in politics, climate change and counter terrorism. However, more action was required. Although the IPU could not do the job of UN peacekeepers, it could engage in preventive work. For instance, it could bring parliaments together to address the root causes of conflict, such as the marginalisation of youth and gender equality. By doing so, the quality of the relationship with the United Nations would automatically improve.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) said that the greatest challenge was to ensure that the IPU was the voice of the people of the world. The diversity represented in each country's parliament must be proportionately represented in that country's delegation to the IPU. In so doing, the position of the IPU at the United Nations would be much stronger. Parliamentarians were losing political space to civil society and private organisations because political parties were moving away from the people. It was critical to legislate in accordance with people's needs and bring the people closer to power. Parliamentarians also had a responsibility to promote global issues among citizens. In Ecuador, a recent resolution on disarmament had gone unnoticed by the national media. It showed that the people were not receiving information on global issues.

Ms. C.L. CREXEL (Argentina) said that parliamentarians who attended UN meetings had the responsibility to provide feedback to their parliaments and communities. In 2017, a colleague and she had attended the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. After the forum, the Argentine parliament decided to put in place a registry of all bills aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The registry would ensure that all legislators were involved in the process, not just the executive. She urged all parliaments to adopt a similar registry, perhaps within the framework of the IPU-UN relationship, in order to standardise action on the SDGs.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), *panellist*, said that partnerships were fundamental in establishing a registry. The correct mechanisms must be in place to ensure that the registry was updated on a regular basis. For instance, the IPU had established a registry on water management legislation with the help of Waterlex. It could also look to establish registries in other areas.

Although the IPU had adopted many resolutions, it was not always good at following up on them. It could be useful to establish thematic networks of parliamentarians passionate about particular issues who would help the IPU to advance. There were also examples of institutional mechanisms which kept the IPU on track. For instance, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW) obliged countries to inform parliaments when they were under review and encouraged them to provide input. The UN Committee's conclusions would then be sent back to parliaments.

Representation was indeed one of the fortes of the IPU in comparison to the United Nations. IPU delegations were representative of all political factions within parliaments. Although it was rare, there had been times when the United Nations had acknowledged the need to engage with parliaments, including the opposition. For instance, the United Nations had agreed to provide funding for two parliamentarians, one from the opposition and one in government, to attend the UN Conference on the Least Developing Countries in 2011.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), *panellist*, said that the IPU was not good at communicating the good work it did. Encouraging women and youth to participate in politics would enhance representation. Although there had been some progress, more work was necessary. He encouraged delegates to attend the Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Ottawa.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that governments were the ones that negotiated international agreements and parliaments would then adopt or reject them. However, parliaments should participate throughout the whole process, including in the negotiations. Agreements would thus better reflect the views of the people. There were more resources available to governments for UN activities than to the IPU. Since the IPU only had a small team, it did not have much weight internationally. The IPU must strengthen its presence at the United Nations as well as at other organisations such as the World Trade Organisation. It must report back to national parliaments before agreements were adopted so that they could discuss all relevant issues. The IPU must also set priorities to ensure its limited resources were used more effectively.

Mr. A.F.I. AL-MANSOUR (Sudan) said that the Pan-African Parliament, which worked together with the African Union, was an excellent model to emulate. It had undertaken many joint projects, such as the establishment of a scientific centre in Addis Ababa. The United Nations could replicate similar projects in other regions. Issues such as terrorism and trafficking in persons occurred nationally and were criminalised in national law. Although the United Nations must address such issues, the conversation must also include national and regional experiences. The IPU and United Nations should look towards civil society organisations, such as Transparency International which was already working with many UN countries to monitor government expenditure.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), *panellist*, said that the IPU had more resources than it used to have and had made much progress in its relationship with the United Nations. That was cause to be optimistic. The Pan-African Parliament was one of the best examples of cooperation between countries.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), *panellist*, said that it was rare for parliaments to reject decisions that governments had already finalised. As a result, it was indeed very important to involve parliamentarians as early as possible and in the entire adoption process. One good example of that was the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Convention was drafted in a very inclusive manner, engaging not only parliamentarians but also NGOs and associations. From the outset, there was a sense of ownership which led to one of the fastest rates of ratification. Similarly, it meant that parliamentarians were well placed to ensure implementation and follow up.

She agreed that the IPU should strengthen its presence at the United Nations and set priorities. However, it was unlikely that the Pan-African Parliament could serve as a model for the United Nations. The UN system was already hugely complex and not without problems. Security Council reform had been on the agenda for decades. The General Assembly adopted hundreds of resolutions which were not given much weight or follow up. It would not be useful to set up yet another body far away from the realities of specific countries. Furthermore, the Pan-African Parliament was an institution of integration aiming to gradually move towards a single system. In contrast, the United Nations was an association of Member States, each one with its own position and prerogatives.

Mr. A. ALBEHBEHANI (Kuwait) said that cooperation among all major players was required to address the crises of the day. Although national parliaments and the IPU were contributing to the work of the United Nations, many challenges remained and more collaboration was needed. The role of national parliaments at the United Nations should not be confined to endorsing or enacting conventions. Parliamentarians should be able to voice their concerns and opinions, help to develop policies and take part in decision-making processes. Some were also calling for more accountability and transparency.

Ms. B. SAMPATISIRI (Thailand) said that parliamentarians should help UN country teams understand local cultures when implementing the various programmes of the SDG agenda. UN country teams should also develop a more structured and integrated relationship with individual parliamentarians. The IPU and United Nations could then cooperate on specific subjects. The Parliament of Thailand endorsed the parliamentary perspective expressed in the report of the HLPF on Sustainable Development. Thailand would build on the report together with local UN agencies. The Thai ambassador to the United Nations would also cooperate with Thai parliamentarians.

Ms. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that it was the responsibility of parliamentarians to ensure that their countries ratified global instruments and harmonised them into domestic legislation. Parliamentarians should also ensure that their governments stood by and allocated adequate funds to global commitments. It was urgent and imperative for the United Nations to engage with parliaments through the IPU on critical human rights and development issues.

Mr. A.H. FULATA (Nigeria) said that the United Nations was primarily set up to avert wars. However, it had not been able to do so because it was under the dictates of five permanent members with veto powers. The international community must democratise the Security Council and the IPU must become a member. All IPU Members must also work towards eliminating the veto powers.

Mr. S. SOENDERGAARD (Denmark) said that the Danish Government was giving Danish parliamentarians less and less time to spend at UN assemblies. The IPU was, therefore, essential in representing the parliamentary wing of the work. However, it was important that delegates at the IPU expressed their own opinions rather than those of their countries. Only then would parliaments be truly represented.

Mr. L. OUATTARA (Burkina Faso) said that the IPU must work on its influence and visibility amongst the populations of the world to be seen as a serious partner. The United Nations used civil society and NGOs to get closer to the people. It also carried out specific non-profit projects which engaged citizens. The IPU should do the same. Parliaments must also discuss and critique UN proposals.

Ms. S. PUSHPA (India) said that the initiatives that the IPU had undertaken to establish a parliamentary dimension at the United Nations were very important. Fruitful results would arise from IPU efforts to involve parliamentarians in decision-making processes and to foster partnerships on priority areas such as human rights and sustainable development.

Global challenges such as climate change and poverty required international cooperation. Cooperation required international organisations to be open and accountable. A UN reform, particularly of the Security Council, was crucial since the organisation must be more consistent with present day realities.

She asked how the United Nations could make the IPU more universal and how parliamentarians could support the IPU in its efforts to establish a parliamentary dimension at the United Nations.

Ms. F. NORDIN (Malaysia) said the IPU should be more assertive in its dealings with the United Nations. One strategy to increase assertiveness was to prioritise certain issues and involve all IPU Member Parliaments in the work. A second strategy was to work in tandem with respective governments. Furthermore, the process by which the United Nations appointed its Secretary-General should be transparent and inclusive of all Member States. The Security Council should recommend more than one candidate to the General Assembly.

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom) said that the UN Charter allowed for military action in self-defence under the authority of the Security Council. In the case of Kosovo, the Security Council passed a resolution confirming the humanitarian crisis but gave no specific authority for action. Nine countries acted anyway and brought the bloodshed to an end. The Kosovan example showed how the General Assembly should be able to reconsider the Charter if it did not fit present day realities. He invited the IPU to reflect on the need to re-examine the Charter when an overwhelming humanitarian disaster was established.

Ms. A. FILIP (Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, IPU), *panellist*, said that the United Nations did not have a systematic mode of engagement and the experience of each country was different. Sometimes the United Nations worked with individual parliamentarians, sometimes with parliamentary committees and other times in the provision of technical assistance. The IPU had been trying to establish guidelines on how the UN country teams

could better engage with national parliaments. So far, it had been largely unsuccessful, encountering much resistance from the system and from governments. She encouraged delegates to have conversations on the matter in their home parliaments, engage with their UN country representatives and feed back good experiences to the IPU.

There were some examples of inclusive practices at the United Nations. For instance, the Australian Government sent two parliamentarians, one from the opposition and one in government, to the United Nations every autumn. In such situations, however, there was ambivalence on the role of parliamentarians in relation to their government and to the United Nations.

It was not for the United Nations but for the IPU membership to make the IPU more universal. The Secretariat was doing all it could to encourage the United States Congress to join the organisation. Countries should also encourage other non-members within their region to join.

There had been a great deal of pressure to make the process of electing the UN Secretary-General more transparent and accountable. In the previous election, candidates were invited to the UN General Assembly where they could present themselves and respond to questions. The Security Council only put forward one candidate but the UN membership agreed that he was the most qualified. It was, nevertheless, clear that more work was needed in that area. The question of re-examining the UN Charter would be addressed at the next session on the revitalisation of the General Assembly.

Mr. D. DAWSON (Canada), *panellist*, said that the revision of the UN Charter would be a long and complicated project but was, nevertheless, necessary. The IPU was hoping to have some 45 young parliamentarians from the US Congress at the conference in Ottawa. The IPU was less influential without US membership. He regretted that parliamentarians were spending less and less time with government delegations at the United Nations. It was true that the United Nations must adapt its projects to the local environment.

The PRESIDENT said that the IPU hoped that all countries, not just the USA, would be Members one day.

Panel discussion: *The role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?*

The PRESIDENT said that it was necessary to distinguish between the political and operational work of the United Nations. There was no other decision-making body more significant in political work than the General Assembly since it was where all Member States were represented. Delegates should discuss how effective the General Assembly was in representing the concerns of the international community. They should also discuss how relevant the deliberations of the General Assembly were to the rest of the world. He introduced the speakers on the panel.

Mr. T. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark), former Chief of Staff to two Presidents of the UN General Assembly, *panellist*, said that international relations were changing rapidly. The world was becoming more multipolar, governments were no longer the most prominent players and non-state actors were increasingly more active. The role of the United Nations in global governance was, therefore, more crucial than ever. Given that the Security Council remained unreformed and was ineffective in the eyes of many Member States, people were looking increasingly more often to the General Assembly for solutions. The United Nations was making efforts to strengthen the General Assembly and its President. That shift in power in favour of the General Assembly was most evident in the election of the new UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, in 2016. The election process was more inclusive and transparent and the Security Council chose a candidate who the Member States had judged as the most qualified.

The year 2015 was a successful year for the United Nations given the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Accord. The agreements were negotiated in intergovernmental fora but with strong input and cooperation from other stakeholders without whom none would have been possible. Those stakeholders included civil society, the private sector, regions, cities, lawmakers and parliaments. The challenge now was to keep those coalitions alive and engaged in the implementation stages. In 2017, the most important event to take place was the UN Ocean Conference. The UN-IPU hearing held prior to the conference also focused on oceans thus helped to launch negotiations, bring in stakeholders and frame the topic for governments. Synchronising agendas in such a way had brought fruitful results.

The General Assembly was the chief global deliberative institution. Its membership was universal with each country having one vote. Its work was important throughout the whole year and not just during the annual meeting of Heads of State and Government. It was true that the General Assembly had passed many inconsequential resolutions. However, it had also made some landmark decisions on urgent issues, such as on the implementation of the SDGs.

The role of the President of the General Assembly had become more hands on. For instance, during the election of the new Secretary-General in 2016, the President had organised informal dialogues with candidates to create more transparency. Candidates would present statements, conduct interviews, meet the press and travel. Similarly, Presidents had begun to organise important meetings throughout the year such as those on the least developed countries, terrorism and Security Council reform. They were also being asked to put forward resolutions as well as to lead negotiations.

António Guterres would soon put forward a reform plan for peace and security, development and internal management. It was paramount for Member States to give him as much support as possible. He hoped Member States in favour of Security Council reform would not block the proposals. The reforms included the establishment of a docking station for SDG implementation which would enable constant engagement with civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders. There was no appetite to reform the division of labour between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. The reforms also hoped to increase UN capacity at country level while bringing in more investment and technology. That should be a joint process between the United Nations, governments and parliaments. He urged Members to support continued strengthening of the President himself. Currently, the President only had five permanent staff members, the position rotated every year with no automatic hand over of knowledge and budget allocations for the office had not changed in 15 years.

Parliamentarians should engage in the work of the General Assembly through the IPU as well as through their national delegations. They should ask questions of their governments, engage at country level, support the reforms of the Secretary-General and participate in General Assembly discussions.

The PRESIDENT asked the next panellist, Ms. M. Bartos, to discuss whether the General Assembly was playing a key role in global governance. She should also discuss how relevant its decisions and processes were to her own country.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary), *panellist*, said that the United Nations and IPU must work together to serve humanity and the common good. The observer status, the office in New York and the General Assembly resolutions all helped to solidify that relationship. Founded in 1889, the IPU paved the way for the creation of the United Nations, which was a testament to the importance of parliamentary diplomacy.

Multilateralism did not happen automatically. It required all countries to realise it was in their interests to engage in dialogue. The General Assembly was a unique forum in which that dialogue could take place and where Member States could be sovereign and equal.

Hungary was a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group. The Group called for enhanced communication between the Security Council and the General Assembly as well as for more transparency. Hungary was in favour of strengthening the role and authority of the General Assembly and improving the working methods of its main committees. It was essential to reach consensus and foster cooperation with the whole of society to deliver on the SDGs. The IPU had a key role to play there. It must encourage national parliaments to translate the dreams of the United Nations into the language of ordinary citizens. Furthermore, the IPU and national parliaments must make the work of the United Nations more visible, helping to strengthen its legitimacy. Parliamentarians were generally not aware of the work of the United Nations since it did not usually appear on the agenda of national parliaments. The IPU should act as a bridge between the United Nations and the people and help revitalise the General Assembly.

Mr. Y. BETKOLIA (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the UN Charter was an indispensable tool for maintaining international peace and security. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran supported all efforts to strengthen the authority of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. The delegation opposed any attempts to undermine the Assembly's authority.

The United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, had failed to address the atrocities in Iraq and Syria. It had done little in relation to cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The Security Council must become more democratic and more representative of developing countries. The United Nations should avoid sanctions since they inflicted suffering on their target populations. It should always consider the long- and short-term effects of sanctions before they were imposed.

The IPU should work together with other international forums and bodies and take legal measures to address the above issues.

Mr. S. DOU (China) said that profound changes were taking place in the system of global governance. Although global governance was the task of the entire international community, the UN General Assembly played a key role. The 2017 General Assembly resolution titled *United Nations in global economic governance* aimed to strengthen the role of the United Nations in global economic governance. The United Nations should encourage discussion, foster win-win cooperation, find inclusive solutions to challenges, promote consensus and adopt unified action. Only then was it possible to build a just, efficient, open, transparent and universally beneficial system. The IPU should bolster relations with the United Nations. China was ready to work with the international community to strengthen global governance and thus create more enabling conditions for world peace and sustainable development.

Mr. T.A. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark), former Chief of Staff to two Presidents of the UN General Assembly, *panellist*, said that China was certainly playing an increasingly more important role at the United Nations. Global economic governance and win-win scenarios must underpin SDG implementation. Member States were indeed interested in adopting a coherent and cooperative spirit. In particular, there was an appetite to establish a platform which brought together all actors relevant to SDG implementation.

He agreed that the relevance of General Assembly resolutions should not be questioned. It was necessary to strike a balance between the particular interests of specific Member States and the global common good. The Presidents of the 71st and 72nd session of the General Assembly had both tried to create that balance by aligning the SDG agenda with the agenda of the General Assembly. However, it required a great deal of flexibility from governments. Countries should not take multilateralism for granted but instead develop it on an ongoing basis.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary), *panellist*, said that Hungary was a member of the Accountability, Coherence and Transparency Group and played an active role in the modernisation of the Security Council. Hungary supported the vision of the new Secretary-General aiming to create a strong, efficient and responsible United Nations. The United Nations must be transparent and visible to have legitimacy.

Mr. T.N. NGUYEN (Viet Nam) said that Viet Nam was strongly in favour of a reformed United Nations which was more effective in addressing global challenges. Reforms should focus on three areas. First, the work of the General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council must better comply with the spirit of the UN Charter. Second, all development activities should better contribute to development targets. Third, there should be better checks and balances, enhanced coordination, reduced bureaucracy, more burden sharing and improved staff capacity.

Viet Nam had put together a 2017-2031 strategic plan which prioritised the four key areas of the SDGs: people, planet, prosperity and peace. The plan sought to establish a partnership between the United Nations and national governments. It showed that development actions could be effective when the United Nations provided support to Member States.

Mr. B. PATIL (India) said that the General Assembly lay at the centre of the system of global governance. Nevertheless, it was considered less relevant than the Security Council or other less representative bodies such as the G20. Recent initiatives to revitalise the General Assembly had been laudable. For instance, the General Assembly now elected its President, Vice-President and the Chairs of the main committees at least three months in advance of sessions. The reform had strengthened coordination of work between the committees and the plenary. However, more determined efforts were needed to revitalise the Assembly. No reform of the United Nations was complete without addressing critical issues such as changing the composition of the Security Council to better reflect contemporary realities. That required extension of membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories.

Mr. T.A. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark), former Chief of Staff to two Presidents of the UN General Assembly, *panellist*, said that all UN Member States agreed that the Security Council needed reform, but could not agree on how to reform it. In particular, there was no unified position on the veto power. Lichtenstein had put forward a reform proposal on limiting the use of veto power which about 100 Member States had supported. The proposal would oblige permanent members to provide an explanation when they used the veto and encourage abstention in humanitarian crises. The reforms of Mr. Guterres would be more focused on the operational capacity of the United Nations, for instance in the field. He hoped that countries would not make Mr. Guterres's reforms contingent on Security Council reform as then the United Nations would not make progress.

He applauded Viet Nam's plan on SDG implementation. Mr. Guterres's reforms could help Member States to implement such national plans. One idea would be for the United Nations to facilitate dialogue between governments and other relevant actors such as investors and technology providers. Indeed, governments would consider the United Nations ineffective if they presented a national plan but received no response or support in return.

The visibility of the United Nations at country level was not good. The current President of the General Assembly, Peter Thompson, had made huge efforts to better communicate the message of the United Nations. For instance, he had written to all heads of state urging them to put the SDGs on the school curriculum.

Ms. K. SHUJAT (Pakistan) said that she commended efforts to enhance cooperation and engagement between the United Nations, national parliaments and the IPU. Engagement on issues, such as human rights, climate change and education, had yielded fruitful results over the previous decade. Although interconnectedness between economies had increased prosperity, not all countries had enjoyed its benefit. While some institutions had undergone reform, more was needed to properly reflect the growing importance of emerging economies. The system of global governance must be more inclusive and give non-governmental actors a greater role. She agreed that countries should better engage civil society and the private sector but it was also important to ensure national sovereignty was respected when responding to global issues. She suggested that the IPU form a consultative body comprising of parliamentarians to help solve disputes. Members of the body could change depending on the issue before the Security Council. Consulting well-informed members of parliament with solid knowledge of global issues could be invaluable in reaching solutions.

Ms. E. NURSANTY (Indonesia) said that the Indonesian parliament appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General on UN reform. Above all, it supported the 10 point declaration that aimed to simplify procedures, decentralise decisions and foster greater transparency, efficiency and accountability. It was critical for the IPU to engage more on UN reform. To do so, it must stay connected to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly.

Mr. A. TOUMI (Morocco) said that the two missions of the United Nations, peace and development, were closely linked. The SDG agenda had been successful in that it had brought together developed and developing countries. Many very developed countries were insisting on the fulfilment of the SDGs which could lead to further international action. The United Nations had considerable resources, including 50,000 staff and a budget of US\$ 5.4 billion per biennium. It must bring those resources together in pursuit of the SDGs. The monetary system, including the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF), should also be more flexible and provide more for developing countries.

Mr. A. MOTTER (Senior Advisor, Economic and Social Affairs, IPU) said that the role of the G20 was growing despite the fact that it remained largely unaccountable as meetings took place strictly behind closed doors. That was in stark contrast to the General Assembly which had a webcast at every session. Yet, the G20 had a bigger role in global economic governance than the General Assembly.

The decision-making processes at the United Nations were not always fair to all countries. The General Assembly operated on the basis of "one country one vote". Although the principle seemed very democratic, he questioned whether the people could be truly represented without considering the different populations of those countries. The IMF and World Bank had a weighted system of voting where countries that contributed more capital had a greater voice. However, it meant developing countries had less of a say. He asked whether it might be reasonable to consider a population-based weighted system of voting at the General Assembly to better represent the people of the world.

Mr. A.F.I. AL-MANSOUR (Sudan) said that establishing dialogue would be a constructive step forward. The international community agreed on a number of matters and had many moral principles in common. That could help yield good results. It was positive that the international community was already aware of the critical issues. There must be more of a cooperative spirit and a sense of common values among parliaments. The UN reforms should be in line with moral ambitions and must bring the international community closer together.

Ms. M. BARTOS (Hungary), *panellist*, said that two emotional questions were important in the revitalisation of the United Nations. First, all actors must trust each other. Second, all countries must have equal opportunities to participate in governance. That dream could be made possible by working together. She agreed that the international community were on the right track. It was important to find more tools and continue dialogues, including within the IPU, to support the mission of the United Nations.

Mr. T.A. CHRISTENSEN (Denmark), former Chief of Staff to two Presidents of the UN General Assembly, *panellist*, said that the Ad Hoc Working Group for the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly was one of the best forums to put forward proposals. It was the body which had decided on the selection process for the Secretary-General and had discussed the nature of the role of the General Assembly's President. Although Security Council reform would make its decisions more legitimate and effective, it would not help Member States achieve all their goals. For instance, it would not help in the implementation of the SDGs. Underpinning the development reforms of the Secretary-General was a concept entitled "sustaining peace" which married together peace and sustainable development. Countries could address Security Council reform and development reform simultaneously.

The participation of civil society at the United Nations was one of the most difficult questions. Many governments believed that the principle of national sovereignty at the United Nations did not allow for the inclusion of civil society. At the same, there was an acknowledgement that non-state actors were essential in the implementation of the SDGs. The criteria concerning who could participate in meetings were unclear. The Ad Hoc Working Group were working on such criteria although Member States would rather decide meeting by meeting.

A weighted voting system based on population would not be a viable way forward. No Member State would accept a situation where another Member State undermined its sovereignty. In 1945, countries purposefully denied the United Nations a role in economic governance. It was instead left to the Bretton Woods institutions. However, the universal mandate to implement the SDGs could now make it possible to have financial and economic resources at the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT said that national parliaments would participate both nationally and internationally. There should be greater cooperation in all main UN processes. The 2016 resolution alluded to the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs as a valuable body in achieving that goal. He urged delegates to submit proposals for the 2018 resolution.

Ms. P. TORSNEY (Head, Office of the Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations) said that the Committee should show leadership in signing the IPU petition on promoting democratic societies.

The sitting rose at 6.20 p.m.

Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU

SITTING OF MONDAY 15 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 10.10 a.m. with Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), the President of the Board of the Forum, in the Chair.

Adoption of the agenda

(FYP/137/A.1)

The agenda was adopted.

Election of one Member of the Board of the Forum

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that the Eurasia Group had nominated Mr. B. MAKEN (Kazakhstan).

Mr. B. MAKEN (Kazakhstan) said that Kazakhstan had created favourable conditions to promote the inclusion and participation of young people in society. For example, it had introduced international scholarships that had enabled more than 12,000 young people to study at the best universities around the world. It had also launched technical and vocational education programmes so that young people could gain the skills required to take up specialized work.

The Parliament of Kazakhstan worked closely with society. Its role had recently expanded in both qualitative and quantitative ways. The number of deputies had increased and the Parliament as a whole had become more representative, particularly of women and entrepreneurs. Young people had been actively involved in political reforms and had taken up positions on local councils. The international community should extend its support to such initiatives. It was important to encourage long-term interaction, intercultural dialogue, information sharing and joint action to tackle world problems such as terrorism and youth policy.

The Forum elected the candidate by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT said that she encouraged members of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU to apply for vacancies on other IPU committees, with a view to promoting a youth perspective across the Organization.

Country updates on youth participation

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians*, said that only 1.9, 14.2 and 26 per cent of parliamentarians worldwide were below the ages of 30, 40 and 45 respectively. The IPU had been trying to raise awareness globally of the importance of youth participation. Young people represented half of the world's population and yet they were not adequately represented in parliament. In 2010, the IPU had adopted a resolution encouraging governments, parliaments, political parties and civil society to support youth participation. Measures in that regard could include adopting quotas and aligning the age of eligibility to stand for office with the age to vote. Action to promote the participation of young women in politics was particularly important given that they were subject to double discrimination based on their age and gender.

The PRESIDENT said that the Forum would hear from members on youth participation in the African, Arab and Asia-Pacific regions. She would then open the floor to delegates.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Nigeria) said that Nigeria had recently passed the *Not too Young to Run* bill, lowering the age of eligibility to hold public office from 40 to 25. Moreover, the Regional Conference of Young Parliamentarians of Africa had recently taken place in Nigeria. Some 21 countries had attended the Conference, which had focused on youth empowerment and political inclusion. At the Conference, young parliamentarians decided to replicate Nigeria's bill in different countries. Participants also urged leaders across the world to support the establishment of youth caucuses to serve as advocacy groups and voice the concerns of young people to the government. The IPU was encouraging youth inclusion in most of its Committees. The Executive Committee and the Governing Council were also considering a proposal to offer incentives to delegations which included young parliamentarians. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians could not succeed unless it had the support of leadership.

Ms. R. AL MANTHARI (Oman) said that the Sultan of Oman had encouraged youth participation, including by introducing a prize for voluntary work. Omani young people had achieved many successes in a variety of fields such as science, literature, photography and sport. They were also active on social media where they discussed social problems and solutions. There were two councils in parliament in which young people could participate. The Omani Education Council also provided a youth perspective in politics. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians must find ways to draw on the wealth that young people could bring and ensure that their contributions were translated into practical projects.

Mr. A. RIFAU (Maldives) said that the Regional Meeting of Young Parliamentarians of the Asia-Pacific had recently been organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Sri Lanka. The Meeting had focused on the role of young parliamentarians in advancing inclusive and peaceful societies and preventing violent extremism. A total of 39 men and 9 women from 11 countries had participated. The average age of participants was 39. Participants had engaged in a very fruitful discussion and had come up with recommended actions. The records of the meeting were available online.

Ms. E. AFANASEVA (Russian Federation) said that youth participation was crucial. Public institutions must teach young people how to engage with politics. Parliaments must create the necessary conditions to include the younger generation. Young people should be able to get involved with their local authorities and progress from there. In Russia, young people could start participating in politics at 16. They could go on to be elected to high-level authorities at 18 and become a member of the State Duma at 21. There was a system of youth parliaments and governments in Russia. The Government had also established the Russian School of Politics and there were many local and international forums in which young activists could take part.

Mr. S. ELO (Finland) said that political youth wings had been a valuable tool for young people in Finland. They had helped young people not only to get involved in politics, but also to gain the national coverage required to get elected. It was often harder for younger people to enter politics compared to older people who had more connections and money. Parliaments must take steps to empower women so that they did not miss out on the talents and skills of half of the population. He highlighted two concerns regarding youth in politics: the high youth unemployment rate (as high as 50 per cent in some European countries) and the migration crisis and its potential to radicalize young people. He invited other countries to comment on those concerns.

Mr. Y. MPAWENI (Malawi) said that his country had established a committee which looked at youth participation. The committee had adopted measures to ensure the participation of young people in three upcoming by-elections. It was important that young people were in leadership positions.

Mr. S.M. FARSHADAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that all people were equal regardless of race, skin colour or any other attribute. Relations between countries should be based on the promotion of peace and the prevention of religious extremism. Religious unity and equality among people were powerful forces against religious discrimination and violence.

Ms. S. PUSHPA (India) said that India provided opportunities for young people to participate in the political process, from the local to the parliament level. The lower house had 33 young members and the upper house had 12. Political parties also had youth wings. The youth wings played a significant role in shaping and strengthening party policy but also in passing on the party's message to the people. The youth parliament was also a very important initiative. Young parliamentarians should be more informed about the work of IPU so that they could come together and exchange ideas.

Ms. R.B. Itamari Choque (Plurinational State of Bolivia) took the Chair.

Mr. A. CHIBAYA (Zimbabwe) said that all countries should report back on their progress on youth participation. Zimbabwe had a ministry and a parliamentary committee which focused on youth participation. Zimbabwe had also included young parliamentarians in its IPU delegation. Some challenges to youth participation included inadequate funding and unemployment. Parliaments should design policies which encouraged youth participation. An awareness-raising campaign was required so that young people were informed about the political opportunities available to them.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that young people were the future leaders and the main drivers of development. Youth policy was no longer a local or regional issue but an international one. Young people must be included in political, economic and cultural activities. Despite some positive examples of youth participation, there were also many challenges. For example, the older generation had been holding onto power and preventing young people from playing a more active role. The Government of Kuwait had responded by establishing the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs. It was essential to find further solutions to encourage youth participation.

Ms. S.A. TUHIN (Bangladesh) said that the father of the Bangladeshi nation had started his political career at a very young age and served as an inspiration to many young parliamentarians. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians had been set up to boost the participation of young people in parliaments and global decision-making. There was strong participation of young parliamentarians at the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka. However, only 2 per cent of parliamentarians across the world were under 30 and only 26 per cent were under 45. People who participated politically from an early age were more likely to engage with politics later on. The Government of Bangladesh had taken many steps to engage young people in politics, including through digital development. The voices of young people often went unheard on issues that affected them.

Mr. S. ALREMEITHI (United Arab Emirates) said that his country had signed many human rights treaties on youth participation. The parliament continually monitored and analysed trends. The Government had appointed a youth minister who was 22, adopted a national youth strategy and made efforts on social media to communicate with young people. There was also the summit entitled the *Mohamed Bin Zayed Majlis for Future Generations*, during which young people could meet government experts. The Emirati Youth Forum also created further space for dialogue.

Ms. D. ALZIER (Indonesia) said that the House of Representatives in Indonesia had passed a regulation allocating 20 per cent of the national budget to education. There were numerous other regulations that promoted youth participation in public affairs. The minimum age was 25 for candidates for mayors and 30 for governors. Currently, 70.9 per cent of Indonesian parliamentarians were under 40. Thanks to ICT developments and social media, Indonesian youth were becoming more interested in politics. They were no longer just news consumers but also news producers.

Ms. S. TAQAWI (Bahrain) said that Bahrain had undertaken a number of initiatives under its national strategy for youth. For example, it had introduced the *King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award* which encouraged participation in sustainable development and sport. There was also the Youth City 2030 event, the Arab Youth Ambassador Project and the *Nasser Bin Hamad International Youth Creativity Award*. The parliament also had a youth committee. Some of the challenges faced by Bahraini youth were unemployment, access to quality education and staying up to date with technological developments. She called upon parliaments to encourage youth participation in the political process, for instance, through legislation, awareness-raising campaigns or youth parliaments.

Mr. J.L. MAZORRA ORTIZ (Cuba) said that the age of eligibility for public office had been reduced from 20 to 16 since the revolution of 1959. Now, 8.5 per cent of representatives in the provincial and national assemblies were under 30 and there were 52 young parliamentarians overall. Young people were the present as well as the future. It was a moral obligation for countries to work together and promote youth participation. It was paramount to ensure quality services for all, without discrimination and including free health care and education.

Ms. B.J. KENEWENDO (Botswana) said that the key to increasing the participation of young people was ensuring that they knew what parliament was and how it could serve their interests. Botswana had been working with many NGOs and universities in that regard. The country was also looking at innovative ways in which to reach young people. The speaker of the National Assembly was currently on a 'know your parliament' drive around the country. She herself had held a tweet meet on sexual and reproductive health for young girls, the recommendations from which would go into draft policy. The initiative showed that social media helped to leverage youth experiences in parliament.

Mr. D. FORCELLINI (San Marino) said that 36 per cent of parliamentarians were under 40 in San Marino. The two sitting presidents were also under 40 and a previous president had been a female under 30. UNESCO had recognised those achievements as an exceptional testimony to representative democracy. Education and training were important to ensure young people could make a real contribution to politics and society.

Mr. D.G. MITOKPE (Benin) said that countries should put more emphasis on the means by which youth could gain access to power. It was not enough to choose young representatives just because they were young. They must also be strong candidates and have a good sense of responsibility and citizenship.

Mr. F. DE MUSSY (Chile) said that fewer than 10 per cent of parliamentarians in Chile were under 25. Those in power often passed laws to serve themselves and prevented new candidates from gaining office. Indeed, there were many young candidates in Chile but few young parliamentarians. It was imperative to share experiences relating to youth inclusion. Countries must engage citizens, for example, via social networks. Once a greater number of young people were involved, governments could tackle issues like migration, which affected the younger generation to a greater extent than the rest of the population.

Mr. E.N. RODRÍGUEZ ZAVALA (Peru) said that Peru had introduced quotas to promote youth involvement. It was mandatory for political parties to put forward young candidates in elections. There were 5,000 young people in official positions in Peru. The IPU should promote similar measures. However, the country had few young parliamentarians and the minimum age to stand for office was high at 25. The Government wished to pass a law aimed at making the youth ministry the main body responsible for youth policy, rather than each ministry devising stand-alone measures, which was the case at present.

Contribution to the work of the 137th Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that a key aspect of the present Assembly was the resolution entitled *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. The Forum of Young Parliamentarians had submitted a written contribution to that resolution.

Ms. Z. HILAL, *Secretary of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians* said that the contribution contained five proposals that had been accepted and included in the draft resolution. The first proposal related to the need to increase youth participation in politics and in parliaments by renewing and refreshing the profile of people who held political office. The second proposal stated that countries should enhance youth participation in parliaments, including by considering quotas and revising age restrictions to run for political office. The third stressed the importance of modernizing parliaments and political engagement, including via social media. The fourth called for countries to empower parliaments and strengthen their independence. The fifth noted that it was necessary to emphasise honesty, civility and trust in democratic institutions and promote initiatives to improve civic literacy among young people, including at schools and in youth organizations.

The PRESIDENT said the Forum would next discuss the general debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue*. Delegates should consider how young parliamentarians could ensure that diversity contributed to peaceful societies which left no one behind.

Mr. M. OJIL (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the parliament of the Syrian Arab Republic had a committee for youth and sports. Political parties and NGOs were also supporting young people. Although the conditions for young people used to be good, the war had changed their situation. Their priority was now to fight terrorism under the leadership of Assad. Syria today was on the verge of victory against terrorist groups such as ISIS and the Nusrah Front. Syrian young people were therefore preparing for the reconstruction of the country. Young parliamentarians had a responsibility to combat terrorism, extremism and external intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

Ms. Y. ABOUTALEB (Egypt) said that Egypt had been witnessing a new era of youth empowerment. The year 2016 had been dedicated to youth. Egyptian young people could participate in monthly and yearly youth forums in which they could propose and discuss ideas with the president and other top officials.

Ms. R. ELWANI (Egypt) said that Egypt was also hosting the first World Youth Forum. The Forum aimed to establish a dialogue with youth from all sectors of society, not only young parliamentarians, in order to establish a wider base.

Mr. N. Ó DONNGHAILE (Ireland) said that he had been the youngest mayor of Belfast at 25 thanks to the trust that his own party, Sinn Fein, had placed in him. The Parliament of Ireland had recently debated legislation to lower the voting age from 18 to 16. It was vital to embolden and enfranchise young people to effect political change.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that Palestine was still under the occupation of Israel which was killing off the hopes of young people. The occupation forces were brutal. Some of their actions included confiscating land, seizing assets and imprisoning Palestinian parliamentarians. Despite that, Palestine had a specific team focusing on young people particularly within the scope of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. E. AFANASEVA (Russian Federation) said that the co-Rapporteurs of the resolution had included the amendments that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had proposed.

Mr. C. LLORET (Ecuador) said that young people could vote at 16 and stand for office at 18 in Ecuador. A significant number of parliamentarians elected in 2014 were under 29. The resolution should also incorporate the concerns of young parliamentarians regarding the importance of building a fairer and more equal world. It should make reference to the need to ensure a better distribution of wealth, reduce inequalities, combat the power of capitalism over human beings and preserve the environment.

Mr. A.S. ALREYASEH (United Arab Emirates) said that his country wished to make further proposals for the text of the resolution. In paragraph 7, the IPU should call on parliaments to promote youth participation and set up specific action plans. Parliaments should use social media to communicate with young people and stress the principles of honesty, civility, transparency and diversity. All members of society should have a chance to take part in decision-making processes.

Ms. S. HASKEL (Israel) said that Israel had made progress on youth participation in politics. For example, the Government had given 17 year olds the right to vote in regional and local elections. Palestine was inciting its young people to murder, violence and hatred. If Palestine truly wished to improve the situation of its youth, it should stop funding terrorism and instead invest money in education and infrastructure.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that the Parliament of Israel had enacted many racist laws against the Palestinian people. It had also been confiscating Palestinian money, water, land and property. The occupation was the epitome of terrorism. He called on nations to help Palestine put an end to the occupation so that its young people could have access to all the country's resources.

Ms. S. HASKEL (Israel) said that Palestine had a racist law stipulating that anyone who sold land to a Jew would be killed. Israel was the only democracy in the Middle East that gave equal rights to all its citizens, regardless of their religion. It was a successful multicultural society. It would be possible to coexist if Palestine stopped inciting hatred and was willing to negotiate peacefully.

Ms. E. AFANASEVA (Russian Federation) said that the IPU Assembly was a unique opportunity to look for common ground and preserve friendship and peace. Loss of life from terrorism and other circumstances was terrible. However, delegates should not accuse each other or seek to aggravate the situation.

Mr. O. HAMAYEL (Palestine) said that Palestinians and Israelis were both suffering from the occupation. Palestine was always calling for peace. Israel was the one building settlements, enacting laws that punished young people and refusing to implement international recommendations.

Hearing with candidates for the IPU President

The PRESIDENT said that the candidates for the IPU President would give presentations and answer questions from delegates on their vision for young parliamentarians.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico) said that while more than half of the global population was under 30, less than 2 per cent of parliamentarians were of that age. Furthermore, three quarters of countries had banned people under thirty from standing for election. She had begun her political career at a young age. At 15, she had joined a political party and at 21 had been elected as a member

of parliament for the first time. At 27, she had become the head of the Miguel Hidalgo area of Mexico City. Now, as a 38 year old, she was a senator and chair of the foreign affairs committee in her country. She was able to stand for office thanks to the support of the young people in her country. However, it was difficult to be a young parliamentarian because no one explained what to do or how the system worked.

After listening to the proposals of parliamentarians across the world, she had come up with a working plan for the IPU. The plan would incorporate an agenda to include more young parliamentarians in the Organization. The work must start in national parliaments. Countries must pass laws encouraging young people to engage. They must allow people under 30 to stand for election. The IPU itself must be closer to parliamentarians and closer to the people. One way to do that was by introducing new training programmes, either online or on-site, and working with universities to build the capacities of parliamentarians. The IPU must also work directly with other organizations such as the United Nations as well as with regional and financial institutions that implemented programmes related to youth. The IPU must use its observer status at the United Nations to express the voices of all citizens, be it women, youth or anyone else. The following year, the international community would discuss the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Many refugees and migrants were children or young people. The IPU must think about how it would defend them in the negotiations. Parliamentarians had a huge responsibility to translate international instruments into national laws and policy and ensure that they were included in the national budget. Only then could such instruments improve people's lives.

Ms. E. AFANASEVA (Russian Federation) asked Ms. G. Cuevas Barron what the optimal age was for a person to become active in politics. She also asked what youth-related issues she would raise on the agenda.

Mr. A. RIFAU (Maldives) asked what extra role young parliamentarians could play within the IPU.

Ms. G. CUEVAS BARRON (Mexico) said that it was important to start with children. Children must learn about the importance of civic responsibility, voting and the constitution. However, that could be difficult to teach. Instead, politics must come from the people. Politics should be something that citizens could share and use to grow closer together. It should not be divorced from citizens as it was today. Politics must reflect everybody, no matter who they were, and for that young people must be involved.

IPU had made progress on youth participation. It had given young people a seat at the Executive Committee and had helped to increase the numbers of parliamentarians under 30. Although the trend was heading upwards, it was not enough. The Organization must draw up a concrete action plan which would give young people more opportunities to learn and express themselves. Young people could not be denied the floor simply because of their age. The work must start within the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, but must also branch out to other sections of the IPU. Parliamentarians should join forces over the next three years to build an IPU that could create a better world.

Ms. I. PASSADA (Uruguay) said that she had been a member of the IPU Executive Committee and Vice President twice. As a result, she was very familiar with the workings of the Organization as well as with all parliaments. She would work very hard to bring peace and democracy. It was not possible to have a full democracy without young parliamentarians and countries must take steps together to engage them. Although young parliamentarians had their own Forum within IPU, they must also participate in the Assembly and Governing Council. One of the first items on her agenda would be lowering the age of eligibility to stand for office. It was not true that young people did not get involved in politics. Politicians did not do enough to make politics attractive to young people. Young people all over world were often more committed than other politicians to key issues such as human rights, fundamental freedoms and conflict resolution. They had been at the forefront of many revolutionary social movements. Without young people, change was not possible.

The PRESIDENT asked Ms. I. Passada to answer the same questions that had been put to Ms. G. Cuevas Barron.

Ms. I. PASSADA (Uruguay) said that it was important to carefully examine the realities of individual countries. Lowering the age of eligibility to stand for office was very important. There should not be a difference in the age of eligibility to become a deputy and to become a senator since the skills required for both were the same. The IPU would address those issues under her leadership.

Young people must participate in political decisions. As a result, they must be involved in the IPU decision-making bodies such as the Assembly and the Governing Council. A comprehensive approach was necessary if the IPU was to change the world. That would require the engagement of everybody, including men, women and young people.

Connecting with Sochi!

Ms. E. AFANASEVA (Russian Federation) said that the 19th World Festival of Youth and Students was taking place in Sochi. There would be 20,000 participants from over 170 countries. A total of 5,000 people aged between 18 and 65 had offered to serve as volunteers at the event. All participants of the Festival would obtain a free fast track visa, full board accommodation as well as the official festival uniform. There would also be a regional programme in 15 different areas of Russia in which 15,000 foreign delegates would participate. Each region would organise a special activity. For instance, in Ekaterinburg, the participants would knit the world's biggest shawl for the Guinness Book of Records. An 8 km gala parade had also taken place in Moscow in which 30,000 young people had taken part. The opening ceremony had been broadcast on all Russian television channels.

Update and discussion on the Forum's workplan and activities (2017-2018)

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the Forum had already heard about the two recent regional meetings of young parliamentarians in Africa and Asia-Pacific. There were two important upcoming activities: the Fourth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians would be held in Ottawa and the IPU would publish its next report on youth participation in national parliaments in 2018. She asked delegates to fill out questionnaires for the report.

Q & A

Mr. M. HOVE (Policy Analyst, Parliamentary Development and Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP) said that the IPU and UNDP had put together the Global Parliamentary Report 2017 on parliamentary oversight and parliament's power to hold government to account. The report aimed to provide a global perspective on how parliamentary oversight was practised. It offered recommendations to parliaments and other stakeholders, such as political parties, governments and civil society, on how to strengthen parliamentary oversight. He hoped that the report would also act as catalyst for renewed focus, discussion and action on oversight in parliaments.

Oversight was important for a number of reasons. It could identify gaps in legislation and policy, ensure value for money, improve parliamentary processes, make parliament more transparent and help to combat corruption. The simple fact of knowing that one might be held to account created a different mindset in government. According to the United Nations My World survey, honest and responsive governments mattered to many people around the globe. World leaders had therefore responded by incorporating a vision for democratic governance and inclusion in the 2030 Agenda. Parliament could play an essential role in that by enacting laws and ensuring accountability and effective implementation. The 2030 Agenda also highlighted the importance of youth. The United Nations had recently launched the *Guiding Principles for Supporting Young People as Critical Agents of Change in the 2030 Agenda*. The principles showed how young people could bring expertise, know-how, innovation, solutions, networks and different perspectives in the implementation of the SDGs.

An effective system of oversight should incorporate three elements. Firstly, there must be a strong mandate with clearly defined powers for parliament to hold government to account. Secondly, there must be committed and willing participants. Thirdly, there must be sufficient capacity and resources for parliaments to bring the mandate and commitment to life.

However, there were several challenges to oversight as expressed in the report. Those included an unfavourable political environment, party politics, limited resources, competing demands, restricted parliamentary powers and a lack of commitment from parliamentarians themselves. Parliamentarians highlighted resource and capacity constraints as the single greatest challenge to effective oversight. In particular, there was an information gulf between the executive and parliament as well as a gulf between relatively well-resourced, established parliaments and emerging, lesser-resourced parliaments.

Ms. K. JABRE (Director, Division of Programmes of the IPU) said that the report had identified several solutions and strategies to enhance parliamentary oversight. There were three big avenues for reform: creating adequate political space, encouraging personal commitments from parliamentarians and ensuring resources and capacity.

There must be a clear understanding of who was responsible for oversight. Governments, parliaments and political parties must all understand that it was a common responsibility of both the majority and the opposition. It should not fall solely on the opposition. Good cooperation was needed between governments and parliaments for oversight to take place. A culture of oversight must filter into the parliamentary and government systems. The human rights of parliamentarians must also be protected to carry out oversight properly.

Parliamentarians must have the courage to carry out oversight since it was not an easy task. They would often be torn between his or her own constituency and the national interest as well as between party guidelines and his or her own objectives. Nevertheless, it was a vital responsibility.

There were a number of incentives and motivations to carrying out oversight. Parliamentarians should carry out oversight if they sought probity, fidelity, equity, efficiency or effectiveness in parliament. However, some major discrepancies existed in terms of resources and capacity. Different countries had different capacities, governments tended to be better resourced than parliaments and individual parliamentarians did not always have the same capacities and support. It was important to find creative ways of addressing those discrepancies. Parliament must have autonomy. The parliamentary structures should have a clear mandate for oversight, for instance, in the committees. Although governments provided access to information, parliamentarians should create their own networks, specifically with civil society, national audit institutions and ombudspersons.

The report contained 28 recommendations for parliaments on how to build their oversight capacity. The IPU and UNDP would support parliamentarians in their work. She also asked delegates to provide feedback on what was useful and what could be improved.

Mr. R.N. IGBOKWE (Nigeria) said that the Forum of Young Parliamentarians in Nigeria had won the trust of young people. It was a channel through which they could express their grievances and connect with the government allowing for oversight to be exercised by the Forum on Youth-related Issues. There were a number of cases where the Forum of Young Parliamentarians had championed the cause of young people in Nigeria. In 2015, the Government of Nigeria had not been able to absorb all graduates into the National Youth Service Corps due to lack of funding. The Forum had challenged the decision by organizing meetings with the relevant ministers. In the end, the President had released a special intervention fund allowing all students who qualified to attend the programme. In another case, the Forum had encouraged action against the staff of the Yaba College of Technology for neglecting the needs of a student who had later died. Similarly, the Forum had helped to diffuse a situation of hostility between Nigeria and Turkey. Reports of young Nigerians being killed in Turkey had generated much anger and mobilized attacks on Turkish institutions in Nigeria. The media had, however, exaggerated many of the reports. Thanks to peace meetings organized by the Forum, the Turkish embassy had sponsored some Nigerian youth representatives to go to Turkey and see the situation for themselves. Similar action had also been taken after extrajudicial killings had taken place in South Africa. He commended the IPU for its work, particularly in encouraging youth caucuses and forums in parliament.

Ms. M. Osoru (Uganda), President of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, took the Chair.

Mr. H. ALI IDRIS ALI (Sudan) said that parliamentarians discussed many highly important political and social matters during the Sudanese National Dialogue. Those matters included peace, the economy, identity and the regime of government. Young people took part in that dialogue. Sudan had about 100 young parliamentarians who were highly involved and well represented in parliamentary committees. Oversight should involve discussions on peace, drug trafficking, youth employment, migration and the fight against religious extremism. Parliamentarians should pay special attention to issues affecting adolescents.

Mr. T.T. SIM (Malaysia) said that young parliamentarians should receive more support in their work since they had less experience. Young parliamentarians had a lower political standing and could be punished if they spoke out against their party or government. They must have the courage to voice their views. There were two groups of young people: those who were well educated and empowered and those who were marginalized and disempowered. It was particularly important that the latter group received support to prevent phenomena such as terrorism.

Ms. F. MELES (Ethiopia) said that young people in Ethiopia played a significant role in economic, political and cultural life. They had contributed to the country's development through their own initiatives as well as with the support of government. Young people faced a number of challenges in Ethiopia. For example, many young people were migrating from rural to urban areas. The government had, therefore, been working to ensure a smooth transition, including by creating jobs. Youth development groups were also making efforts to increase youth participation in politics.

Mr. O. ALTABTABAE (Kuwait) said that his country's National Assembly had taken concrete steps to include young people. He had brought two students with him to the present session of the Forum. He hoped that one day they would take up seats in parliament.

Ms. K. JABRE (Director, Division of Programmes of the IPU) said that there were many commonalities. Parliamentarians faced the same challenges in terms of oversight, whether they were young or old.

Preparations for the 138th Assembly (March 2018)

The SECRETARY OF THE FORUM said that the Forum had selected two members to draft written contributions to the resolutions that would be adopted at the 138th IPU Assembly. They were: Mr. P. Kalobo (Zambia) and Ms. S. Haskel (Israel), both members of the Board of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians. Furthermore, Mr. A. Williamson was the author of the next *World e-Parliament Report* which would focus on the ways in which parliamentarians could use social media and new technologies. Mr. A. Williamson would be carrying out interviews and conducting a survey. She asked delegates to get involved so that the report contained a youth perspective.

The sitting rose at 1.10 p.m.

Parity Debate on the theme *Holding the purse strings: Exercising oversight for the common good*

SITTING OF TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

The sitting was called to order at 11.15 a.m. with Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands), Member of Parliament, as the Moderator.

The MODERATOR said that the purpose of the parity debate was to promote dialogue between women and men on issues of common interest. The present debate would explore one of parliament's most powerful functions: scrutinizing the budget and overseeing public spending. Participants should discuss practises, experiences and lessons learned on parliamentary oversight for the whole budget cycle from the formulation of priorities to the evaluation of its impact on citizens. It would be useful to discuss concrete examples of strategies and initiatives aimed at strengthening parliamentary oversight and making it more responsive to people's needs. The debate would also cover how gender-responsive budgeting could contribute to gender equality. He introduced the panellists. The first two speakers, Mr. A. Richardson and Mr. C. Chauvel, would present the findings of the IPU and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Global Parliamentary Report 2017.

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Information Specialist, IPU) *panellist* said that the Global Parliamentary Report 2017 focused on parliamentary oversight and parliament's power to hold government to account. Although oversight powers existed in theory, they did not always exist in practice. Oversight was a complex task but nevertheless important for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report took into account information from parliaments from all over the world. It defined three essential elements for an effective system of oversight: (1) the powers, (2) committed MPs, and (3) the capacity and resources to make use of the powers. Research showed that parliamentary powers in the budget process varied considerably. The capacities and resources of parliaments also varied. There had, however, been a significant increase in the number of parliaments setting up budget offices to provide dedicated research capacity to support members of parliament. The research also outlined several challenges to oversight such as creating a space for parliamentarians to hold governments to account. The report contained 28 recommendations to strengthen parliamentary oversight. The recommendations were valid for every country, whatever their situation, since there was always room for improvement. In particular, it was important to look at forming effective partnerships between parliaments and audit institutions.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL (Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, Bureau for Policy and Programmes Support, United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]) *panellist* said that the Global Parliamentary Report 2017 was a knowledge product aimed to help parliamentarians carry out their oversight function.

Good governance was essential to achieving the SDGs. Part of good governance was delivering effective government services which were accountable and responsive to people's needs. Parliament must play a role in determining those services, holding them to account and measuring their quality and delivery. Only then would it be possible to know whether the 2030 Agenda would be met.

The report placed special emphasis on budgetary oversight and in particular gender-sensitive budgeting. There were a number of key aspects to budgetary oversight. First, parliamentarians should play a central role in budget formulation. There should be space in the constitutional system for a dialogue between parliament and the executive on what the budget priorities should be. Parliamentarians represented the people and were therefore best placed to deliver the promise of leaving no one behind. Second, parliamentarians must also play a role in budgetary approval. The executive must present the budget to the plenary for scrutiny. The plenary should then adopt, reject or amend it before it became law. Without parliamentary adoption of the budget, it was not a lawful document. Third, parliamentarians must also oversee the implementation of the budget. All parliamentary committees should summon ministers to answer questions in public on whether they were implementing the budget as envisioned by the legislation. Fourth, parliament, in conjunction with supreme audit institutions and civil society organisations, must evaluate government spending, identify systematic weaknesses and recommend practical changes. He invited delegates whose parliaments did not have the above attributes to speak to the IPU or UNDP. The two organizations could help, for instance, by conducting workshops or designing working programmes.

Although countries were making progress towards parliamentary oversight, there was still a long way to go. Not many parliaments received the budget in advance and few had a system for gender impact analysis. There were some good examples of gender-responsive budgeting, such as in Sweden which had a six year plan, but the picture was not universally good. Only 20 per cent of parliaments engaged in the practice.

The MODERATOR asked the next three speakers to present their national experience in overseeing the budget process, particularly in gender-responsive budgeting.

Ms. T. MODISE (Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South Africa), *panellist*, said that the Constitution of South Africa prohibited discrimination based on race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, age, disability, culture and language. The Freedom Charter and the Women's Charter were the cornerstones of the Constitution. Various institutions also existed such as the Commission for Gender Equality, the Department of Women and the Pan South African Language Board. In South Africa, parity was, therefore, wider than just men and women. The budget must accommodate all aspects of society.

It was vital to look at the financing allocated to parliament itself compared to the executive. Parliament must have the capacity to train and align its committees with every aspect of the executive's portfolio. Parliamentarians must be able to ask questions about the budget and ensure funds were allocated for women and other minority groups. In South Africa, the Government was obliged to discuss the budget in public hearings. The National Council of Provinces could not pass the budget unless the provinces had given the go ahead to their representatives. Both houses of Parliament must pass the budget.

In August 2017, South Africa had hosted the International Women's Conference on *Women and the Changing World of Work*. At the conference, countries had approved a declaration calling for parliaments to adopt and implement gender-responsive budgets. South Africa used a multiparty parliamentary women's caucus with an all female membership to ensure that women were considered in all budgets. There were also dedicated portfolios in the National Assembly, the National Council of Provinces and the national provinces themselves, with women participating at all levels. Not only did women need to play a part in budget formation, but they must also be present across the board. For instance, the defence budget could be gender-sensitive only if women participated both in parliament and in the armed forces themselves.

Ms. G. MOSER (MP, Chairperson of the Court of Audit Committee, Austria), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians must get involved in the budget cycle. Austria had introduced reforms which made Parliament more orientated towards oversight. It was the responsibility of parliamentarians to bring the budget to life and ensure good results for both men and women. One of the key budgeting principles in Austria was transparency. There was a big gap between parliamentarians and the experts from the ministries. That gap would be closed by the Parliamentary Budget Office, an independent expert body established in 2012. The body provided assistance to all parties and conducted a yearly analysis of the budget. The green party also received training on how to read the budget. Despite the above efforts, the Government were the real decision makers and had usually made the choices before the budget came to Parliament. Parliament had little impact on changing it.

Ms. K.J. BETETA RUBÍN (MP, President of the Committee on Budget and General Account, Peru) *panellist* said that the Constitution of Peru stipulated that Parliament could not draft or increase the budget. That role belonged exclusively to the executive who would draft a budget for all state institutions. As a result, it was not always possible to achieve a budget that met the needs of the country. Peru had been involved in some corruption scandals, including the *Lava Jato* case, which had occurred because the previous three governments had not granted Parliament adequate budgetary oversight powers. The governments had even used Parliament to pass legislation which allowed them to raise the budget without checks and balances. However, the current administration had introduced major changes and there was now greater parliamentary oversight of expenditure. In particular, Parliament wished to identify and eliminate inequality in the budget, including gender inequality. There were nevertheless some constraints on the parliamentary oversight function. For instance, Parliament did not always receive the information needed to carry out oversight. That was true of the *Lava Jato* case following which the Public Prosecutor signed an agreement with Odebrecht but did not release the information. Budgetary oversight was also difficult due to pressure from major economic powers as well as from media moguls. The media often used the smokescreen of freedom of press to undermine the authority of Parliament in scrutinising the budget. Resources, logistics and offices to carry out oversight were also inadequate. There was no auditing process and state bodies did not have the

means to draft reports thoroughly and in due time. The right strategy was to work with the citizens. Citizens would observe offences and parliamentarians could then pass on the information to the relevant authorities. Overall, the situation was frustrating. Although there were decentralised sessions which allowed regional authorities to put forward proposals for draft budgets, the executive placed limits on them in advance.

Ms. J. NIKOLOVA (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that transparency in public spending was important. In The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Government must submit the draft budget to the Assembly by mid-November. Parliamentarians would then discuss the budget in the Finance and Budget Committee but also in other committees. For instance, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women reviewed the budget from a gender perspective. The latter committee, together with the Women Parliamentarian's Club, also organised workshops and debates on gender budgeting. Any member of parliament, parliamentary group or committee could submit amendments to the draft budget. The Assembly must adopt the budget by the end of December. The State monitored the implementation of the budget by evaluating reports, accounts, financial procedures, electronic data, IT systems and other documents. The authorised audit body submitted an annual audit report to the Assembly which would then review it and adopt conclusions. Parliament could also pose questions to the relevant ministers on the final budget bill. In 2008, the Government set up the Budget Council of the Assembly with the purpose of strengthening the financial autonomy of the Assembly.

Ms. S. SIRIVEJCHAPUN (Thailand) said that the budget cycle had five steps in Thailand: planning, preparation, adoption, execution, and monitoring and evaluation. Parliament was involved in the adoption stage. Parliament would consider the annual appropriations bill which contained expenditure estimates, income and revenue estimates as well as expected outcomes and benefits from spending. The figures should be consistent with the national strategy and development plans. Under the new Constitution, the Government must be gender responsive in preparing the bill. However, gender-responsive budgeting was a new concept for Thailand and the country still had a great deal to learn from other IPU Members. The Government mandated an ad hoc committee to scrutinise and amend each of the proposals. The revised bill would then go to the National Assembly for final consideration. The Thai Parliamentary Budget Office had also been in place for some time. The body aimed to enhance parliamentary engagement in the budgeting process by sending the necessary data to the ad hoc committee and to the parliament.

Ms. S. PUSHPA (India) said that the Constitution of India contained three fundamental provisions to safeguard the rights of citizens in relation to the budget. First, no tax could be levied or collected without the authority of the law. Second, no expenditure could be incurred outside the law. Third, the executive must spend the money as determined by Parliament. In India, both Houses debated and voted on the proposals. A gender focused discussion also took place. Parliament carried out its responsibility through a network of 24 standing committees. The IPU should develop a policy whereby parliamentarians who work most intently towards the common good became role models for others. She asked how the IPU could help parliamentarians to exercise oversight for the common good.

Mr. M. SENATHIRAJAH (Sri Lanka) said that there were over 80,000 female-headed families in war affected areas in the north east of Sri Lanka. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had also found that many pregnant women and children were suffering from malnutrition. Yet, no government had allocated any proper funding for them in the budget. He called on the IPU and UNDP to pressure the Sri Lankan Government into allocating sufficient funds and establishing a proper plan.

Ms. W.A. KHAN (Bangladesh) said that parliamentarians, including those in opposition, chaired all oversight committees. The budgeting process included a general debate in Parliament. On many occasions, Parliament had obliged the Minister of Finance to change some details of the budget. Parliamentary oversight was for greater good of the people. In Bangladesh, the prime minister gave the chairs of all committees complete freedom to ensure the greater good.

Ms. L. GUMEROVA (Russian Federation) said that the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation participated at every stage of the budget process, from drafting to consideration and control. The upper chamber was particularly active. That year, it had proposed 20 amendments to the budget of which the Government had adopted 8. All finances were incorporated into one law, making them easy to access and understand. Since 1995, Russia had an accounts chamber which was responsible for overseeing all expenditure. Parliament appointed six of the 12 auditors. In the event of

financial abuse, Parliament would receive the information and immediately launch an inquiry. She herself had once observed that there was no allocation for the construction of kindergartens. After requesting a significant amount of money for that purpose, the Government were able to build those kindergartens. The move was significant for gender equality. Russia was ready to share its experience with others.

Ms. S.F. HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that women must be involved in gender-responsive budgeting. Unfortunately, female members of parliament often did not have the chance to become members of the budget committee in the Islamic Republic of Iran. When the budget bill came to Parliament, the Government had already made the decisions and little could change. There were two solutions to the problem. Women were getting informed about the budget themselves, analysing it and exercising oversight. Women were also pushing for gender-responsive budgeting with relevant government departments. The goal was to make gender-responsive amendments before the budget came to Parliament.

Ms. J. BURTON (Ireland) said that her country had recently established a budgetary oversight committee. In Ireland, the key issues for women in terms of the budget were childcare, family allowances, training for those wishing to return to the workforce and pensions. While debating the technical structures of budgetary oversight committees was useful, it was also important to look at the issues affecting women throughout their lives.

Mr. Y. YONAH (Israel) said that the Government of Israel had adopted a resolution encouraging gender-responsive budgeting. The resolution had obliged each ministry to provide a gender analysis of the budget by 2018. The analysis would thus help the Government to draft budgets that promoted gender equality in the future. There was also the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality which had the authority to summon the director-general of each ministry to provide further details of the gender analysis.

Mr. A. JAFFAR (Bahrain) said that his Government had taken a number of measures to encourage parliamentary oversight of public spending. It had established a committee to control the expenditure of Government, a centralised auditing system and a public accounting office. The Ministry of Finance was the competent authority responsible for drafting the budget in Bahrain.

Mr. F. BURBANO (Ecuador) said that one of parliament's most critical tasks was overseeing public spending because the finances came from the people they represented. The people expected the budget to be spent in an honest, transparent manner. Often it was the opposition that played the most important role in oversight. However, he agreed that oversight was difficult, especially if the other branches of government were not independent. The IPU should help parliamentarians to enhance their work. Civil society and the media were also crucial in exercising oversight. He condemned the tragic death of the Maltese journalist who had revealed the Panama Papers. Parliamentarians must build alliances with investigative journalism.

Ms. I. ALWAZIR (Palestine) said that Palestine was still under occupation and therefore had budget deficits. The budget depended on tax and customs payments as well as on funds from donor countries, but Israel had frozen tax payments collected on behalf of the Palestinians. It was difficult to take into account the role of women or even the needs of different ministries because of the deficit. She hoped that peace would prevail and Palestine would become independent. Palestine could then take care of its people.

Mr. H. ALI IDRIS ALI (Sudan) said that there were administrative, political and economic aspects to the budget and that, in Sudan, a separate committee dealt with each one. Women played a major role in the budget. The budget always took into account the needs of the different ministries. There were three stages to the process. First, Parliament discussed the details of the budget and decided whether to adopt it. Second, Parliament oversaw the implementation of the budget. It would scrutinise the spending of each ministry and whether it was in line with the original plans. The executive could not add to the budget without the consent of Parliament. Third, the Auditor-General evaluated the spending at the end of the year.

The MODERATOR said that the panellists should summarise the lessons countries had learnt on gender responsiveness and how those lessons related to their own experiences. Or they should address whether a dialogue with civil society organisations took place in their countries and whether it had an impact on the budget cycle.

Ms. T. MODISE (Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South Africa), *panellist*, said that South Africa tried to spread women across all committees. The women's committees and the multiparty women's caucus trained women on how to scrutinise the budget. For a long time, South Africa did not have a women's ministry. Instead, it had an independent body that would monitor all state departments and institutions on women's issues. A ministry, however, was now in place and continued the work of the independent body. South Africa strived to achieve 50 per cent female participation in Parliament. Unless women were in strategic positions, the relevant questions did not come up. There were also many empowered men parliamentarians who were allies. Although Parliament had the power to amend the budget, it had yet to do so. Parliament had, however, refused to pass the budget when it did not agree. Civil society also played a role. Parliament could not pass the budget unless the public had reviewed it.

Ms. G. MOSER (MP, Chairperson of the Court of Audit Committee, Austria) *panellist*, said that Austria had a constitutional framework on gender budgeting which was relevant for both men and women. The Ministry of Finance applied gender budgeting in its work and in the budget law. However, gender budgeting was still a work in progress. Each ministry must define a maximum of five outcomes per budget sector. For instance, the budget for traffic could focus either on improving roads for cars or improving public transport. The ministries must explain what each outcome would achieve and how they would measure success. Civil society organisations had access to the budget which was published online. They often engaged in dialogue with individual parliamentarians but less so with the ministries.

Ms. K. BETETA RUBÍN (MP, President of the Committee on Budget and General Account, Peru), *panellist*, said that state bodies must receive a budget allocation for human and entrepreneurial development. The budget must ensure a gender balance. There must be equal access to funding. Countries must follow up on budgetary spending to ensure that funds were going to the right people and were not misused. It was important to open up spaces for dialogue, including on the gender dimension. The Russian Federal Assembly was a good example of a system where parliamentarians participated from the initial drafting of the budget up until its approval. All parliaments should play a role in drafting the budget. In Peru, that was not possible because the budget had a ceiling. Parliamentarians analysed, debated and then approved the budget but the Government did not take on proposals if they affected the budget ceiling. Civil society organisations and other private parties did not have much impact on budgetary oversight.

Ms. M.E. ZABALA MONTENEGRO (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that Parliament played an important oversight role in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and was able to issue both verbal and written reports. There was also a public accountability mechanism for all state bodies which held public hearings. However, that was not enough. The IPU must look at the extent to which parliaments could change the direction of public policy to benefit citizens. It must also evaluate the extent to which women parliamentarians had an impact on the budget. In Bolivia, gender responsive legislation existed but budgets often did not allocate sufficient resources to implement it. The IPU should organise capacity-building activities for women on budget formulation and control as well as on gender-sensitive policy development. It was not sufficient for women to address gender issues alone. The entire legislature must participate, including men and young people. It would be helpful to identify indicators to measure the level of equality and participation of women and whether the budget took account of it.

Mr. L. BARRÍA (Panama) said that the IPU should recommend that gender-based budgets were not linked solely to the ministries for women but instead were mainstreamed across the entire government. Otherwise the objectives would not be achieved. It was also important to mainstream issues relating to young people.

Ms. J. MBAMBU MUGHOLE (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that there were few women in the committee on economic and financial affairs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Those that were there had been recommended by influential men. There was a conflict in the east with ongoing massacres yet the Government had not allocated a budget to help victims or support families hosting war orphans. She called on the IPU and UNDP to intervene. The most pressing issue was helping people displaced by war.

Ms. M. BABA SY (Mauritania) said that the level of gender representation in the budget process in Mauritania was inadequate. Only 22 per cent of parliamentarians were female. Nevertheless, the country was doing its best to include a gender dimension in budget procedures. With support from the IPU, Mauritania had organised a series of "caravans", or outreach visits, in which women

parliamentarians had travelled around the country to identify women's issues. It was not enough to have a budget solely for women. Women's issues must be mainstreamed across all government departments. One priority issue for women in Mauritania was tackling the high rate of maternal mortality. During their outreach visits, women parliamentarians discovered that some women were cut off in winter time and could not leave their homes. The budget should, therefore, respond to that situation, for instance, by building roads to evacuate women who would be giving birth or establishing better healthcare infrastructure on location. Parliamentarians must go out on location to discover people's needs rather than making decisions from the chamber.

The MODERATOR said that panellists should explain the main lessons to take away from the discussions, including the main skills parliamentarians needed to oversee the budget.

Ms. T. MODISE (Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces, South Africa), *panellist*, said that women must coordinate, support each other and share experiences across parliaments. Parliament must address the needs of all constituents and represent the diversity in their respective countries. In Africa, women made up the majority of the electorate yet their needs were not represented in the budget.

Ms. G. MOSER (MP, Chairperson of the Court of Audit Committee, Austria) *panellist*, said that the IPU should continue to be a platform to share best practices. Parliamentarians must receive training from experts. The budget should reflect the needs of the people. Transparency, consultation and accountability were also important.

Ms. K. BETETA RUBÍN (MP, President of the Committee on Budget and General Account, Peru), *panellist*, said that gender-responsive budgeting should be a crosscutting issue. Parliamentarians must gain experience, develop a sense of intuition and understand economics. The budget would then be effective and it would be easier to identify irregularities and problems. The budget should be designed to support development and reduce inequalities.

Mr. A. RICHARDSON (Information Specialist, IPU) *panellist* said that the interventions from Members reinforced the messages of the Global Parliamentary Report, including the value of sharing experiences between parliamentarians. There were two lessons to take away. First, parliament had the power to shape the environment in which the budget was developed. Indeed, some parliaments were obliging ministries to carry out a gender analysis of the budget and mainstream the gender dimension across their work. Second, there was a trend towards increasing parliament's role at all stages of the budget process. In some cases, parliament's role was limited to the adoption stage in which there was little scope for change. Increasingly however, parliaments were becoming involved in the planning of the budget so that concerns were addressed before it reached the plenary. The IPU and UNDP were willing to work with any parliament interested in strengthening its oversight function, especially financial oversight from a gender perspective.

Mr. C. CHAUVEL, (Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, Bureau for Policy and Programmes Support, UNDP) *panellist* said that he had four observations. First, the representatives of Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of the Congo should contact the United Nations coordinator in their countries. The best way for UNDP to take up concerns about conflict was by having a direct dialogue on the ground. Second, he endorsed the recommendations of the representatives of Panama, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mauritania on the importance of mainstreaming gender throughout the budget. However, gender mainstreaming could not occur in an opportunistic or accidental way. It must be systematised or it would not work. Third, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was right to observe how unusual it was for a woman to chair a finance committee. It would be good to normalise the participation of women in such positions. Fourth, he agreed with the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the need for a monitoring and evaluation framework in the area of gender budgeting. The Global Parliamentary Report had established a baseline of 20 percent of parliaments that do such monitoring and evaluation. However, that baseline was low and, thus, UNDP would consider indicators which would move the baseline up.

The MODERATOR said that the IPU and UNDP would take up all the observations.

The sitting rose at 1.05 p.m.

Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

(Morning)

Panel debate: *Forty years since the adoption of the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions: How does the law still protect in contemporary law?*

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m., with former Senator Mr. P. Mahoux (Belgium) as Moderator.

The MODERATOR, presenting the theme of the panel debate, recalled that the two Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 that had been adopted in 1977 covered both international and non-international armed conflicts, with a focus on the protection of civilians. While the Protocols remained relevant forty years after their adoption, it was important to further strengthen their implementation in the light of the changing nature of conflict in the modern-day setting, where their provisions were not always observed. The debate would therefore focus on the role of parliamentarians in that regard, in which context he drew attention to the *International Humanitarian Law: Handbook for Parliamentarians*, co-published by the IPU and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

He introduced the panellists who would be sharing their knowledge and experience relating to the theme: Mr. Benjamin Charlier, Legal Adviser, ICRC; Mr. Juan Manuel Corzo, Senator (Colombia); Ms. Marie Lequin Coutin, Head of Eurasia Region, Geneva Call; and Ms. Monica Green, member of parliament (Sweden). He then invited the participants to view a film produced by the ICRC to mark the fortieth anniversary of the two Protocols.

A short film entitled *Rules of war (in a nutshell)* was screened.

The MODERATOR said that, in the vital quest to strengthen international humanitarian law, the inescapable fact that had to be taken into account was that civilians were often the main victims of the collateral damage resulting from military strikes. It was furthermore essential to support the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, as they were clearly intended to destroy civilian populations and civilian installations. He invited Mr. B. Charlier to provide an overview of international humanitarian law in terms of its role, relevance and implementation, including difficulties encountered and successes achieved.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (Legal Adviser, ICRC), *panellist*, said that the ICRC was mandated by the international community to promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), including by raising awareness of it in fora like this one. Together with the Geneva Conventions, the two Additional Protocols (AP's) continued to form the foundations of IHL and were the cornerstones for the protection and respect of human dignity in armed conflict. Their fortieth anniversary was thus an important opportunity to reflect on the concrete value of that law and, crucially, on ways to strengthen observance thereof and its overall relevance in contemporary conflicts. He noted that in the ICRC's view on that topic which was debated at times, efforts should, overall, rather be focused on finding effective ways to strengthen the respect for the existing core rules of IHL which set realistic but nevertheless high standards of protection and were, therefore, implementable in contemporary conflicts, rather than on trying to change those core rules.

After presenting a brief historical perspective on the AP's, he explained the four main objectives of the AP's. The first one was to ensure ownership by the newly expanded international community after the decolonization process in the 60's. 124 States had participated in the negotiations of the AP's, which was more than double the number for the Geneva Conventions. The second main objective of codifying and developing essential rules on the conduct of hostilities, which had not been significantly revised since 1907, had also been achieved, as the Additional Protocols defined the crucial notions of combatants, armed forces and military objectives, among others, and laid down such core principles as distinction, proportionality and precaution in the context of launching an attack. The third main objective achieved had been to expand the law of war to include non-international armed conflict. Indeed, Additional Protocol II was the first-ever international treaty to address such conflicts exclusively, complementing Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions. It furthermore remained a key achievement, notwithstanding that the number of rules it encompassed was somewhat limited by

comparison with the number governing international armed conflict. The fourth main objective achieved had been to take account of new realities of warfare by including rules relevant to guerrilla tactics and acts of terror.

With respect to key successes, the Additional Protocols were among the most ratified legal instruments in the world; all States had ratified the Geneva Conventions, 174 had ratified Additional Protocol I and 168 had ratified Additional Protocol II. That had also contributed to the formation of customary international humanitarian law, which applied to all States, irrespective of whether they had ratified them or not. . The Protocols had further assisted in the fight against impunity for violations of international humanitarian law, having been incorporated into the Statutes of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, as well as into the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which had jurisdiction over both international and non-international armed conflicts. The biggest achievement of all, however, was their translation into reality.

He drew attention to the *IHL in action: Respect for law on the battlefield* website platform newly launched by the ICRC, available via the link <https://ihl-in-action.icrc.org/>, saying that it included a database of international humanitarian law success stories compiled by theme with the aim of documenting compliance with that law in modern warfare. He also suggested that parliamentarians might wish to investigate the tab entitled "Implementation mechanism", as it could provide them with ideas for promoting international humanitarian law and sensitizing civil society and the executive branch of government to international humanitarian law. He likewise commended the IPU publication *International Humanitarian Law: Handbook for Parliamentarians* as another useful resource for inspiring parliamentary action in that regard.

The MODERATOR thanked Mr. B. Charlier for his presentation and invited Ms. M. Lequin Coutin to share her experience concerning the need for armed non-State actors to respect international humanitarian law.

Ms. M. LEQUIN COUTIN (Geneva Call), *panellist*, giving her presentation with the aid of slides, said that her organization, Geneva Call, was an international non-profit organization that worked to reduce the adverse impact of armed conflict on civilians. It did so through advocating for higher compliance with international humanitarian law by armed non-State actors, including opposition and insurgent movements, de facto authorities, paramilitary groups and self-defense militia. In that role, its primary areas of focus covered such topics as landmines, child protection, sexual violence, forced displacement, medical missions and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. As to the legal bases for its work, they were essentially Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Protocol II additional to those Conventions, customary law, international human rights law and United Nations resolutions.

The organization worked transparently with the core values embedded in the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, and sought the support of States and cooperation with international organizations, including the United Nations. Its activities were premised on the fact that most contemporary conflicts involved armed non-State actors, that must therefore be made aware and informed of the requirement under international humanitarian law to protect civilians in armed conflict. The State-centric nature of the international legal system nonetheless posed challenges for regulating the conduct of those actors. Nevertheless, some States refrained from signing treaties until non-State actors pledged similar commitments.

The direct approach of Geneva Call was to engage in constructive and sustained dialogue with armed non-State actors, to build their knowledge and enforcement capacities with respect to international humanitarian law, promote public pledges of respect for international humanitarian law, strengthen the implementation of international humanitarian law, and monitor compliance therewith. Its indirect approach was to organize mass media campaigns to raise awareness of the subject and to involve civil society organizations in advocacy towards armed non-State actors.

A short film, *Geneva Call in 3 minutes* providing an overview of the organization and its work, was screened.

Ms. M. LEQUIN COUTIN (Geneva Call), *panellist*, continuing her presentation, said that armed non-State actors were requested to sign deeds of commitment as a unilateral pledge to respect specific provisions of international humanitarian law and to be held publicly accountable for the commitments made. The deeds of commitment were standardized and universal, had no effect on the legal status of armed non-State actors, and pertained to three different spheres: adherence to a full ban on anti-personnel mines; prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and the elimination of

gender discrimination; and the protection of children in armed conflict. At present, 85 armed non-State actors had signed such deeds of commitment, which stipulated respect for the highest international standards pertaining to those three spheres, the implementation of enforcement and monitoring measures, and recognition of the fact that any confirmed acts of non-compliance would be publicized by Geneva Call.

Other tools of commitment included unilateral declarations, codes of conduct, special agreements, memoranda of understanding, and action plans, while training tools included video clips, booklets and a mobile telephone application designed to teach combatants the rules of armed conflict. A directory of humanitarian commitments made by armed non-State actors was also available on the website www.theirwords.org.

Advocacy towards armed non-State actors needed increased support from States in the interest of saving lives and ensuring dignity for civilian populations, as well as respect for their being and infrastructure; reciprocity with States concerning respect for international humanitarian law; increasing dialogue with States concerning humanitarian issues; creating favourable conditions for peace talks; and enhancing fluidity in the delivery of aid. Challenges included lack of access to the areas where armed non-State actors operated; rejection of international humanitarian law by some of those actors; difficulties in enforcement of the deeds of commitment; and the possible imposition of sanctions under counter-terrorism laws and policies. She invited participants to seek further information on the activities of Geneva Call by visiting its website www.genevacall.org, which included a database of deeds of commitment signed by armed non-State actors.

The MODERATOR commented on the interesting correlation between the work of Geneva Call and that of the ICRC and invited Mr. J.M. Corzo, in the light of his country's many years of conflict, to speak about the role of the Colombian Parliament in conflict resolution and follow-up measures, including transitional justice.

Mr. J.M. CORZO (Colombia), *panellist*, said that his country, Colombia, had endured over seven decades of conflict, involving in particular the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), that had ended in 2016 following the successful conclusion of peace negotiations brokered in Havana. The conflict had been resolved thanks to the provisions of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the Additional Protocols of 1977, and customary law. The dialogue for peace, including the initial rapprochement phase, had lasted some seven years, following which FARC had made a commitment to comply with international humanitarian law and show respect for human life. For its part, the Colombian Government had committed to ensuring the safety of former combatants who surrendered and to assisting their return to civilian life. As part of the deal, the United Nations had also started collecting weapons surrendered by FARC members.

Not all Colombians, however, had supported the peace agreement, which had been rejected by referendum. The agreement had therefore been revised, reviewed by the Constitutional Court, signed by the country's President and approved by Parliament. A key aspect of the agreement pertained to the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, a judicial system created by a constitutional amendment on transitional justice for former combatants. Another positive outcome of the peace agreement had been a drastic reduction in drug trafficking in which FARC had been widely engaged.

In the coming days, the Colombian Parliament was set to approve a budget for the establishment of special peace zones where former combatants would be given access to land, education and psychological and other support with view to promoting their eventual reintegration into society. He expressed gratitude to all those, including the United Nations and the ICRC, who had played a part in the successful peace efforts in Colombia, which were vital to the country's development and future. As a former victim of kidnapping, he viewed the commitment to peace as essential to the socio-economic development, progress and future of a country that had many assets.

The MODERATOR commented that to strike the delicate balance between justice and impunity was certainly a significant accomplishment and invited Ms. M. Green to speak about the initiatives undertaken by the Swedish Parliament in support of and to promote international humanitarian law.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians in countries such as Sweden, which had experienced no war or conflict within living memory, could still do much within their own societies and elsewhere to promote peace and minimize violence. Indeed, it was vital for such countries to play their part as members of the international community in working to prevent and resolve conflict. All parliamentarians could make a difference by promoting international humanitarian law.

In the case of the Swedish Parliament, its delegations worked to that end within such organizations as the IPU and the United Nations; it organized parliamentary seminars relating to the subject; it had invited the Executive Director of UN Women to participate in a recent debate it had conducted on combating sexual violence in war, domestic violence, and violence against women; and it formed networks for exchanging experiences and planning events on such issues as conflict prevention and the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees. Parliament also played an important role in approving the budget for the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), which generously assisted development and was also a large donor to both the IPU and UN Women. With respect to its assistance in the field of international humanitarian law, the priorities for SIDA included action for peace and security, the development of partnerships for fighting poverty and attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and humanitarian aid. Lastly, she said that the Swedish Parliament regularly disseminated information to raise awareness of the violence against women and girls that was all too common in armed conflict and of the need for concerted efforts to eliminate such violence.

The MODERATOR thanked Ms. M. Green for her informative presentations and invited comments from the floor.

Ms. J. SALMAN (Bahrain) said that, notwithstanding the existence of international humanitarian law aimed at ensuring full protection for civilians during time of war, human rights violations were rife in the conflicts taking place in her region of the Middle East. The reason was the double standards being practised, with each player implementing the law on the basis of its own interests, which impeded not only solutions to the conflicts but also the delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need, in particular women, children and the marginalized in society. International support to facilitate the efforts of the international organizations attempting to deliver such aid was therefore vital, as was action to sanction those who prevented its delivery and who committed other violations of international humanitarian law.

A delegate from PARAGUAY said that an important aspect of the Colombian peace process had been the involvement of the Colombian people by virtue of the referendum and wide public debate. In view of emerging situations of potential concern in his own country, he wondered what measures the Colombian Government had taken to prevent the growth of socio-economic imbalances in the areas where armed conflict had taken place.

Mr. J.M. CORZO (Colombia), *panellist*, said that the will of the Colombian Government and FARC to sit at the negotiating table had been instrumental in the peace process and that international organizations had participated in ensuring that international humanitarian law was respected and implemented on the ground. The harmonious and well-constructed outcome of the process had taken into account the impact on development and respect for combatants and civilians alike, an important component in that regard being the budget for peace. The bases of the mechanisms he had described for moving forward the peace process in the wake of the referendum rejection had been the country's presidential system and strong democratic tradition, with the Parliament playing an essential role. In all those contexts, international humanitarian law agreements had been key.

Ms. M. LEQUIN COUTIN (Geneva Call), *panellist*, said with respect to violations of international humanitarian law that those responsible were aware, and indeed fearful, of the punishment that could be imposed on them for such violations. It was important to remember, however, that domestic law could also be brought to bear in punishing crimes under international humanitarian law.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (ICRC), *panellist*, said it was indeed a misconception to believe that violations of international humanitarian law must, first and foremost, be addressed through the international justice system. It was above all the responsibility of States to fight impunity for such violations and it was on the basis of the complementarity between the domestic and the international sphere that the international justice system was in fact founded. He insisted that national justice systems should be the first port of call for punishing those who violated IHL.

A delegate from BELGIUM asked whether Geneva Call had had any dialogue with Daesh and, if so, under what circumstances. He also wondered how relevant international humanitarian law remained in the face of new forms of violence and conflict and whether it should be reviewed accordingly, especially in the light of terrorism and the fight against it.

A delegate from SAUDI ARABIA asked why armed non-State actors would be minded to sign deeds of commitment and wondered whether the incentive was that they believed they would consequently acquire legitimacy, thereby posing a potential danger to States. He also asked whether the ICRC engaged with armed non-State actors.

Ms. M. LEQUIN COUTIN (Geneva Call), *panellist*, said that an overall focus on the many groups representing a threat to civilians was preferable to singling out any one of them, including Daesh. It was essential to acquire an understanding of what motivated such groups before approaching them and, to that end, Geneva Call worked with national authorities, civil society, religious figures, and so on in order to relate international humanitarian law to local contexts and cultures. In the case of Daesh fighters, they had been permitted to leave the city of Raqqa following dialogue and negotiations that could be seen as a positive step towards further dialogue.

Although some armed non-State actors had no interest in engaging with Geneva Call, many others were motivated to do so or to approach it following the cessation of hostilities in order to pursue peace, as in the case of those in Colombia. A prerequisite, however, was an awareness of international humanitarian law on the part of those actors, while Geneva Call, for its part, adhered to specific rules of engagement. Geneva Call also worked to avoid legitimizing armed non-State actors by asking them to recognize themselves as part of their respective countries. It never obliged any group to enter into dialogue with it, which would be counterproductive and create risks for the countries concerned and their civilian populations.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (ICRC), *panellist*, confirmed that the ICRC engaged with armed non-State actors as well, but said that it also worked with national armed forces. Its engagement with interlocutors occurred at both the operational and humanitarian diplomacy levels, without intent to confer any kind of political legitimacy by doing so. Its sole objective was to address humanitarian situations and it did not wish to prejudice the potential for success by refusing as a matter of principle to engage with specific interlocutors. The concerns about legitimizing armed non-State actors by engaging with them were understandable. Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions explicitly stated, however, that the application of its provisions did not affect the legal status of the parties to a conflict. Hence, any armed non-State actor was liable for their actions which in some cases, if not in breach of IHL, could constitute crimes under national law.

A delegate from UGANDA, noting that the special privileges accorded to former combatants in Colombia might provide an incentive for newly formed armed groups to continue engaging in rebellion, asked how the Colombian authorities had achieved the delicate balance between the quest for peace and accountability. Their success on that score was praiseworthy indeed.

A delegate from GUYANA, echoing that praise, asked what the status of international humanitarian law was in situations such as that described in Colombia.

Mr. J.M. CORZO (Colombia), *panellist*, replied that the special laws enacted in the wake of the Colombian peace agreements were transitional and would therefore remain in force for a set period only to allow for the gradual social reintegration of those who had known nothing other than guerrilla warfare for decades on end. Those special laws were not designed to award privileges but rather to provide access for former combatants to the same educational and other opportunities as those available to the general population. That was also in the interest of the country's socio-economic development. The rationale behind those measures, including the establishment of special peace zones, was that it would be impossible for those who had lived so long outside the system in a jungle environment to adapt immediately to civilian life in more developed settings.

Ms. M. HAJ HASSAN (Sudan), relating her country's experience of conflict, said that Sudan had endured the longest war on the African continent. The war had culminated in the declaration of South Sudan as an independent State. Conflict between warring factions had continued nevertheless but had ultimately been resolved through a two-year dialogue process leading to, *inter alia*, a weapons amnesty, amendments to national legislation and the introduction of a transitional justice system. Owing to the success of those measures, the unilateral sanctions imposed on Sudan had recently been lifted. She drew attention to a document, circulated in three languages by her delegation, which detailed the Sudanese experience in the hope of benefiting others in similar situations.

A delegate from the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC said that protecting international humanitarian law demanded united action worldwide. There was a need to enact legislation to combat terrorist activities and the financing of takfirist organizations such as Daesh, which was interested only in indiscriminately killing those they perceived as falling out of line with its doctrine. His country and

people had suffered immensely from that particularly heinous form of terrorism pursued on its soil by individuals from scores of countries who claimed to be acting in the name of Islam, with no concern whatsoever for humanity.

The MODERATOR thanked the contributors for their input and invited the four panellists to make recommendations on the basis of comments made.

Ms. M. GREEN (Sweden), *panellist*, said that it was important to fight terrorism and punish those responsible by working through the United Nations and the Security Council. She also re-emphasized the crucial role of parliamentarians in mobilizing public opinion on the subject and in cooperating with relevant organizations, in which context she highlighted the usefulness of the *International Humanitarian Law: Handbook for Parliamentarians*.

Ms. M. LEQUIN COUTIN (Geneva Call), *panellist*, said that parliamentarians could assist by engaging in regular broad discussions on the subject in their home settings and elsewhere and by ensuring that all counter-terrorism laws enacted were conducive to enabling humanitarian actors to work in countries where there were humanitarian needs. In countries affected by armed violence, regular dialogue between policymakers and humanitarian actors would also help to clear up any misunderstandings and thus ensure that humanitarian aid directly benefited the civilian populations to whom it was destined.

Mr. B. CHARLIER (ICRC), *panellist*, said that the excellent discussion had illustrated that numerous issues could be further pursued and so help clarify the scope and nature of international humanitarian law and ensure its proper implementation. The issue of the fight against terrorism was frequently raised in such discussions and misconceptions worth further exploration were highlighted, in particular the idea that the law of war might accord a certain status or label to parties involved in conflict. The truth was, however, that all those parties had the same rights and obligations under the provisions of international humanitarian law, which had been negotiated by none other than the States themselves. His main recommendation was for parliamentarians to acquaint themselves with the topic of international humanitarian law as much as possible and, in so doing, to make use of the *International Humanitarian Law: Handbook for Parliamentarians*. Parliamentarians should feel free to reach out to experts, humanitarian workers, academics and others in order to clarify any questions they might have concerning their role in the matter. The ICRC stood ready to provide support in that regard.

Mr. J.M. CORZO (Colombia), *panellist*, said that it was crucial to abide by the rule of law and to cooperate in the fight against international organized crime, which had no borders, by prosecuting offenders. Domestic law must also be harnessed to protect democracy and ensure the implementation of peace agreements, in particular by way of special transitional measures. The lesson from Colombia was that former combatants who showed themselves willing to re-join mainstream society would be generously treated, whereas those who refused that path would be prosecuted for their crimes.

The MODERATOR thanked all those who had contributed to the interesting debate on such an important topic and said that concerted efforts by parliamentarians to promote and defend international humanitarian law, including through use of the *International Humanitarian Law: Handbook for Parliamentarians* should always be encouraged.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

Adoption of Resolutions, final documents and reports

SITTING OF WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

(Afternoon)

The sitting was called to order at 6 p.m., with Ms. V. Matvienko (Russian Federation), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.

Item 3 of the agenda

General Debate on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*

(A/137/3-DR)

The PRESIDENT, giving an overview of the events of the 137th IPU Assembly, said that their substantive and robust deliberations of the past few days had been further enriched by contributions from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues, His Holiness the Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia, and the Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). The resulting outcome document, the St. Petersburg Declaration, sought to capture the key messages discussed and identify specific areas for parliamentary action to enhance and promote inter-ethnic and inter-faith dialogue for the purpose of creating inclusive societies and ensuring world peace.

Mr. D. MCGUINITY (Canada), paying tribute to the exemplary leadership of outgoing IPU President Chowdhury, presented the draft outcome document of the 137th IPU Assembly, the St. Petersburg Declaration: *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through inter-faith and inter-ethnic dialogue*. He said that the Declaration reflected the need to embrace and celebrate diversity and served as a road map for collective action, broken down into six thematic areas with specific measures aimed at: strengthening normative processes and legal frameworks; making parliaments more representative and effective institutions; preventing human rights violations relating to culture and religion; building social dialogue for multicultural and inclusive societies; focusing on civic education and improving interpersonal skills; and promoting international cooperation to encourage interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue. As parliamentarians, they had the means to make a difference and had pledged to implement the recommendations of the Declaration. With the collective might of the 156 parliamentary delegations present, representing millions of people from every background and walk of life, they were up to the enormous task that lay ahead of them. And there had never been a more important time for dialogue. If the General Debate had taught them anything it was the need to continue talking to each other. He called on IPU delegates and Member Parliaments to commit to implementing the measures laid down in the Declaration: they owed it to each other, to the people they represented and to the future.

The outcome document was endorsed.

Item 4 of the agenda

Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy

(A/137/4-DR)

Mr. I. UMAKHANOV (Russian Federation), *co-Rapporteur, member of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, presented the draft resolution, which had been prepared, along with an explanatory memorandum, by his two fellow co-Rapporteurs, Ms. S. Dev (India) and Mr. N. Schrijver (Netherlands), and himself, and said that the Committee had held a constructive discussion on the draft. A total of 93 amendments had been considered during the drafting in plenary, of which more than 30 amendments, submitted by 11 delegations, had been included in the final draft, including all those proposed by the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. Democracy was, in the words of Winston Churchill, the worst form of government, except for all the others that had been tried. Indeed, participants had agreed that, alongside human rights and the rule of law, democracy was a shared ideal, albeit one that did not take the same form in every country. In recognition of the growing role of parliaments and the importance of parliamentary diplomacy, the resolution invited the United

Nations to consider designating 30 June as the International Day of Parliamentarism to commemorate the date on which the IPU had been created in 1889. He called on the president-elect of the IPU, Ms. Cuevas Barron, who had supported the idea from the outset, to promote the initiative at the United Nations General Assembly.

The PRESIDENT invited the Assembly to adopt the resolution.

The draft resolution was adopted by acclamation.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran), commending outgoing President Chowdhury for his service and congratulating the new IPU President Ms. Cuevas Barron, expressed his delegation's strong opposition to the Belgian delegation's proposal for the theme of a panel discussion, entitled *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI*, set to be held by the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 138th Assembly. Inadequate time had been given to allow members, many of whom opposed the subject, to give their views. The decision to accept the proposed theme had not been taken in line with the Committee's procedural rules. The principles of equality and non-discrimination were widely accepted; however, the priority of the Standing Committee was to uphold fundamental human rights principles. The rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI) were not covered in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The lifestyle and behaviour of that group of persons ran counter to religious doctrine, social norms and family values. Adequate time should therefore be given for members to fully consider the proposal. In the meantime, the theme should be removed as an item on the Committee's next agenda.

Mr. J. LACÃO (Portugal) said that, as a member of the Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, he wished to pay tribute to the work of members in drafting the resolution just approved. The resolution covered the fundamental principles of a genuine democracy.

The subject raised by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran should neither be confused with the resolution nor the subject item of a future resolution on migration, which was to be discussed under agenda item 6. The issue related solely to a panel discussion at the next session.

The PRESIDENT said that the comments had been duly noted.

Item 5 of the agenda

Reports of the Standing Committees

(a) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Ms. L. ROJAS (Mexico), *President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security*, paying tribute to outgoing IPU President Chowdhury, said that the Standing Committee had elected two new members of the Bureau: Mr. H.B. Kambhampati (India) and Ms. L.I. Ceritoglu Kurt (Turkey). The Bureau had met to discuss the main themes dominating the peace and security agenda and had agreed to proceed with plans to conduct a field visit of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Liberia (UNMIL). There had been several major developments in the area of peace and international security since the previous Assembly in Bangladesh. First and foremost, the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons had been adopted, paving the way to a world free of nuclear arms. A new United Nations paradigm prioritizing conflict prevention had emerged, based on the rationale that the best way to prevent crises was through sustainable development. Regrettably, in recent months, numerous events that threatened peace and security had also occurred, including terrorist attacks in several countries; an escalation of internal conflicts, such as in Yemen and Myanmar; and the continuation of the nuclear testing programme by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Standing Committee had participated in two sittings to discuss how, as parliamentarians, they could contribute to making the world a safer, more peaceful place. There had been two panel discussions: the first, on the role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations, in line with the results of the IPU Global Parliamentary Report 2017 entitled *Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account*; the second, on the implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare. The latter served as the Committee's first review of the implementation of one of its resolutions. It was important to strengthen IPU mechanisms for assessing the implementation of such resolutions. The Committee had also organized an expert hearing entitled *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*, with a view to adopting a resolution on the topic at the 138th IPU Assembly.

The Assembly took note of the report.

(b) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Mr. A. CISSE (Mali), *Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade*, commending the work of departing IPU President Chowdhury, said that the Standing Committee had welcomed two new members to the Bureau: Mr. M. Djellab (Algeria) and Ms. D. Solíz (Ecuador). The Bureau had also expressed concern at the absence of the President of the Standing Committee and hoped that she would be able to participate at its next session in Geneva in March 2018.

The Standing Committee had discussed a draft outcome document that was to serve as the parliamentary contribution to the Bonn Climate Change Conference (COP 23) in November 2017. The document had been presented by the co-Rapporteurs Ms. B. Höhn (Germany) and Mr. J. Usamate (Fiji), who were incorporating the Committee's observations into the text before presenting it at a Parliamentary Meeting, co-organized by the IPU and the Governments of Fiji and Germany, on the occasion of the COP 23. The Standing Committee had also attended a presentation of the *Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation* study, a joint project between the IPU, the University of Columbia and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment of the London School of Economic and Political Science. The report was a valuable source of information and represented an important step in transposing the principles of the Paris Agreement into national measures for combating climate change.

The Committee had held two debates during the session. The first was in connection with the subject item of its next resolution, entitled *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*. The co-Rapporteurs and an expert from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) had introduced the topic and, at the end of the lively debate, the co-Rapporteurs had explained how they would integrate the contributions made into the draft resolution. The second was a panel discussion entitled *Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards*. Experts from the World Health Organization and the University of Texas, as well as representatives of Member Parliaments, had debated how parliaments established links with the science and research community.

The Assembly took note of the report.

(c) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Mr. A. AVSAN (Sweden), *President of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs*, thanking President Chowdhury for his accomplishments during his term of office, said that the Standing Committee had held two debates during the 137th Assembly. The first explored the parliamentary dimension to the United Nations and its progress over the past 20 years. The IPU's association with the United Nations had begun in the late 1990s, enabling parliaments and parliamentarians to interact with the United Nations, participate in conferences and, ultimately, become key partners of that organization. IPU advocacy had helped shape United Nations outcomes; most notably, it had influenced the governance goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There was a long way still to go; too many of the world's 45,000 parliamentarians were unaware of the relationship with the United Nations and its potential. As a result, the voices of too many people were not being heard. As parliamentarians, they had an opportunity to reverse that trend: the UN General Assembly was set to adopt a resolution on the interaction between the United Nations, parliaments and the IPU. He called on parliamentarians to demand a briefing with their ambassadors to the United Nations to convey how their parliament could play a role at the United Nations with the help of the IPU. Further information on cooperation with the United Nations was available on the IPU website.

The second panel discussion, entitled *The role of the United Nations General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?*, had served to take stock of UN General Assembly reforms, which aimed to strengthen that body in response to the overpowering and less representative nature of the Security Council. The General Assembly now played a much stronger role in the election of the Secretary-General.

Lastly, the Standing Committee had joined forces with the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security to mark the adoption of the groundbreaking Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Since the risk of a nuclear holocaust had never been so high, inaction was no longer an option. Under the Treaty, it was now illegal to own nuclear weapons or transfer them to another country. The event had highlighted the need to focus public attention on the grave danger that nuclear weapons posed. Parliamentarians must put politics aside in that regard and focus on their moral duty to rid the planet of those terrible weapons.

The Assembly took note of the report

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The PRESIDENT invited Ms. B. Tshireletso to give a verbal report on the activities of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights.

Ms. B. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana), *President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that the main business of the Committee during the session had been to finalize the draft resolution, *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*, which the Assembly had just adopted. The Committee had also endorsed the document submitted by the IPU Advisory Group on Health, entitled *Review and follow-up action on the 2012 IPU resolution on Access to health as a basic right: The role of parliaments in addressing key challenges to securing the health of women and children*. The document provided additional information on implementing the resolution in the light of new global instruments such as the SDGs, the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030) and the IPU Strategy 2017-2020.

As regards the agenda for its next session, the Standing Committee had endorsed the Belgian delegation's proposal for a panel discussion at the 138th IPU Assembly on the theme *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI*.

Lastly, the Standing Committee had agreed on the subject item for its next resolution, endorsing the proposal of the Moroccan delegation, which was: *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*.

The Assembly took note of the report.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco), supported by the representatives of Jordan, Benin, Sudan and Somalia, said that he wished to register the reservation of the Arab Group to the planned discussion of the Standing Committee on the theme *The role of parliaments in ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and ensuring respect for the human rights of LGBTI*. While individual rights were widely accepted, the IPU should not participate in the promotion of matters that contravened the holy scriptures of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. As parliamentarians, they must reflect the will and opinions of their people. Thus, they strongly rejected that topic's inclusion on their agenda.

Ms. N. LABIDI (Algeria) said that all human issues should be worthy of discussion. That said, discussions on potentially thorny issues required meticulous and careful consideration, not rushed onto the agenda. A bigger discussion was needed; thus, the issue should not feature on the agenda for the forthcoming session.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that they had serious reservations about the issue. Indeed, the subject had led the African Church to split with the Church of England. If it remained on the agenda, the African group would not attend.

Mr. J. LACÃO (Portugal), referring to the agenda item of the Assembly, pointed out that the Assembly was called to approve the subject item of a future resolution on migration. The issue of a panel discussion on the situation of LGBTI persons had been dealt with in the sitting of the Standing Committee and was not an issue for the plenary Assembly.

The SECRETARY GENERAL reminded delegates that, under agenda item 6, they were called to approve the subject item of a forthcoming resolution for adoption in October 2018 on the issue of migration. In that regard, no objections seemed to have been raised.

The other issue that had been raised related to a panel discussion of the Standing Committee on ending discrimination against LGBTI persons. He understood that it was not intended to lead to a resolution or outcome document. As per usual practice, the Assembly was invited to take note of the Report of the Standing Committee.

Ms. B. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana), *President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, said that the proposal had been discussed at length in the Bureau, where all geopolitical groups were represented. After a full and frank discussion, in which different opinions had been raised, the Bureau had decided to recommend the proposal to the Standing Committee. In the

meeting of the Standing Committee, many delegations had taken the floor to speak in favour of the proposal, and no delegation had spoken against it. The Standing Committee had therefore approved the proposal for a debate, in accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees.

Mr. M. KAVAKEBIAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) disputed the way in which the decision had been taken. No vote had been cast, he said, which was why they were raising their objections in the Assembly. The item must be removed from the agenda of the future session, otherwise many members would not participate.

The PRESIDENT noted the reservations made and proposed that they move to consider the next order of business.

Item 6 of the agenda

Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 139th IPU Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs.

(A/137/6-R.1)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to document A/137/6-R.1 and said that, for the next cycle, the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights was proposing the subject item *Strengthening inter-parliamentary cooperation on migration and migration governance in view of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration*. The Parliament of Morocco, which had tabled the proposal, was to provide the name of their rapporteur in due course. The IPU President would carry out consultations with a view to appointing the second rapporteur at the next Assembly in March 2018.

The Assembly approved the subject item.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco) said that he wished to thank members of the Standing Committee for having supported the proposal. He reiterated that the reservations expressed by the Arab and African groups related to the panel discussion on the issue of LGBTI.

Ms. B. TSHIRELETSO (Botswana), *President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights*, restated that the decision had been made by the members of the Committee without any objections having been raised.

The PRESIDENT said that, in view of the reservations expressed on the theme of the panel debate, the matter should be referred back to the Standing Committee for further consideration. The Standing Committee, therefore, might wish to hold a meeting at the next session to discuss the Belgian delegation's proposal in greater depth.

It was so decided.

Closure of the Assembly

The SECRETARY GENERAL, paying tribute to the extraordinary work of the outgoing IPU President, Mr. Saber Chowdhury, said that he and Mr. Chowdhury had formed a strong partnership with a united vision for the future of the Organization. The President's wisdom, dedication and tireless energy had generated great respect and visibility for the IPU. While today they were sad to see him go, tomorrow they would welcome a new President, who would equally receive the full support of the IPU Secretariat and Member Parliaments. As President, Mr. Chowdhury had participated in no fewer than 50 missions, many of which he had paid for himself. On behalf of the IPU, its Member Parliaments and the Secretariat, he conferred upon Mr. Chowdhury the title of IPU Honorary President, and expressed the conviction that Mr. Chowdhury would continue to be actively involved in the work of the Organization. Over the years, Mr. Chowdhury's words had been a source of inspiration, so much so that they had tried to capture some of his insight in a publication entitled *In His Words*. It had been circulated to all Members and would form part of the IPU archives, serving as a source of inspiration as the Organization continued to grow.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *President of the IPU*, thanking the Secretary General and all the IPU Members for their good wishes and kind words of appreciation, said that it had been an honour to serve as the President of the world organization of national parliaments. The cooperation and trust between the President, the Secretary General, the IPU Secretariat and the Member Parliaments had made the achievements of the past three years possible. In that time, the Organization had made real progress, becoming more widely known and having a greater say in world issues and events. The partnership between himself and Mr. Chungong had been a historic one, being the first time that the executive and political sides of the Organization had both come from the developing world. Now all geopolitical regions were working together to provide leadership. It was that aspect of the IPU — the togetherness, the sense of family and partnership — that he would miss the most.

As a global organization, passions would naturally run high and disagreements would occur. What was important was that all relevant matters, no matter how sensitive or complex, were discussed in a spirit of openness, inclusiveness and mutual respect. There was no one size fits all solution; indeed, their diversity was their strength. Since the United Nations had no parliamentary wing, he had no doubt that the IPU could become the United Nations of global parliaments, with universal membership. Parliamentarians were distinct from other national and international stakeholders, since they had a constitutional mandate to act for and on behalf of the people. As parliamentarians, they must never underestimate their potential to change the lives of the people they represented.

In recent years, the IPU had practiced what it preached. It had led the way on climate change and sustainability, holding the first green IPU Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh; it had promoted youth participation, incorporating young parliamentarians into its Executive Committee; and it had embraced technological change, launching a new website in four languages and digitalizing its archives, which had been no mean feat given that the Organization predated the United Nations and the former League of Nations by some margin. The IPU was now in great shape to realize the aspirations of the people. Citing Martin Luther King, the time was always right to do what was right, he said, and that time was now. He was confident that parliamentarians would keep moving the IPU forwards and fighting for the future of the people who had elected them.

The PRESIDENT invited representatives of the geopolitical groups to address the Assembly.

Ms. R. ALITWALA KADAGA (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that she wished to thank the host country for the memories of the 137th Assembly. She expressed her appreciation to Mr. Chowdhury for the leadership he had shown during his term of office and welcomed the appointment of only the second woman president in the IPU's history. They had waited 100 years for their first woman president, and another 18 years for the second. She hoped that the election of Ms. Cuevas Barron as IPU President heralded a new era in that regard, one in which portraits of women presidents take pride of place alongside those of their male counterparts at IPU headquarters. She invited the new IPU President to take an interest in Sub-Saharan Africa and called on the United Nations to ensure that the rights of the Rohingya people, including their citizenship rights, were guaranteed.

Mr. A. OMARI (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, paid tribute to the Russian people and to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for its excellent organization of the 137th Assembly. He expressed his gratitude to the outgoing IPU President Chowdhury, who had

increased the visibility of the IPU during his mandate, and congratulated the new IPU President, Ms. Cuevas Barron, on her election. He was confident that, under her direction, the IPU would confront today's myriad complex challenges and seek appropriate solutions to ensure that all persons were able to live with dignity. The IPU must stay true to its founding principles by addressing the current threats to international peace and security and upholding the rights of those who suffered injustice and oppression. He expressed the hope that Arabic would be adopted as an official language of the Organization and urged the IPU to show its support for the Palestinian people and their right to return to their homeland and establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Ms. A. ANGGRAINI (Indonesia), speaking on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Group, expressed her appreciation for the tremendous efforts of the host country, the Council of the Federation, the State Duma and the many individuals who had contributed to the success of the 137th IPU Assembly. St. Petersburg had made for the perfect setting. She wished the outgoing IPU President Chowdhury well and congratulated the new IPU President Ms. Cuevas Barron on her election.

While they had achieved so much during the session, their efforts must continue. As parliamentarians, they must think about the challenges that lay ahead. They all shared a common goal — the creation of a more peaceful, more prosperous world — and each IPU Assembly brought them a step closer to achieving that ideal.

Mr. J.C. LLORET (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, said that he appreciated the hospitality of the host country and paid tribute to the departing IPU President. He was delighted that a Latin American woman would occupy the role of President for the first time in the IPU's history. Under her guidance, democratic objectives and women's full participation would be consolidated, the poorest sectors of society would be represented and the IPU would be the voice of the marginalized. Their achievements at IPU Assemblies were only effective if, as parliamentarians, they reflected on their discussions and resolutions at home and adopted legislation on sustainable development, wealth distribution and gender equality.

Mr. D. PACHECO (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the Twelve Plus Group, hailed the achievements of President Chowdhury, who had improved the Organization's standing. Members of the Twelve Plus Group had actively participated in the various Committees and plenary sessions. He drew attention to the emergency item on the situation of the Rohingya, which had been of great concern to them all, and commended the adoption of the resolution *Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy*. Lastly, he expressed solidarity with the Venezuelan authorities. The IPU was a parliamentary assembly; it must not turn a blind eye to a democratically elected parliament.

Ms. K. ATSEMYAN (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Eurasia Group, thanked President Chowdhury for his hard work and dedication. They lived in turbulent times, where conflicts and misunderstandings abounded. She commended the election of a woman as the new IPU President; with a greater role in society, women could help to make the world a different place. She commended the host country and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the excellent organization of the 137th Assembly. Delegates were leaving with good memories not only of the Assembly but also of the beautiful city of St. Petersburg.

Mr. F. RABBI (Bangladesh) welcomed the new President and hoped that the work done by Mr. Chowdhury to raise the profile of the Organization would long continue. He announced that the Russian Federation had bestowed its highest civil honour, the Order of Friendship, on Mr. Chowdhury. Clearly, Mr. Chowdhury was not only the pride of Bangladesh but also of the IPU. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude to the parliamentarians for having supported the emergency item on the situation of the Rohingya, who were being killed indiscriminately and deprived of their citizenship rights.

Mr. S. CHOWDHURY, *President of the IPU*, expressed his deep gratitude to the Bangladeshi Parliament, of which he was a member, for having nominated him as IPU President three years previously. He dedicated the Order of Friendship he had received for services to inter-parliamentary relations to his constituents and to all parliamentarians who stood up for people's rights around the world.

The SECRETARY GENERAL remarked that St. Petersburg had been the capital of the global parliamentary community for the past week. In recognition of the way in which she had presided over the proceedings, he wished to present Ms. Matvienko, President of the Assembly, with a token of their appreciation: a special IPU gavel, in honour of her leadership and wisdom.

The PRESIDENT said that the past few days had presented an opportunity to participate in stimulating debates and form new friendships. She thanked all the participating delegations for having turned St. Petersburg into the global centre of inter-parliamentary dialogue. She echoed the praise for Mr. Chowdhury; under his direction the IPU had reached a new level of importance and prestige. The challenge for the new IPU President was to turn the Organization into a stronger and even more universal platform for inter-parliamentary dialogue. The event had helped them all to find common ground. With this, she declared the 137th Assembly closed.

The sitting rose at 7.55 p.m.

St. Petersburg Declaration on *Promoting cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue*

*Endorsed by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

We, Members of Parliament from 158 countries, meeting in St. Petersburg on the occasion of the 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, recognize that interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue is fundamental for peace and cultural pluralism.

In October 2012, the IPU adopted the Quebec City Declaration on *Citizenship, identity and linguistic and cultural diversity in a globalized world*. By so doing, we recognized the importance of balancing respect for diversity with social inclusiveness and cohesion as a means of building trust within and among societies and as a sine qua non for progress, prosperity and a high quality of life.

We underscored the fact that all individuals must be allowed the full enjoyment of their equal and inalienable rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights and humanitarian law treaties and standards, and that they should not be subject to discrimination on any grounds including culture, race, colour, language, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. Five years down the line, the principles enshrined in the Quebec City Declaration remain as valid and relevant as ever.

As the past few decades have shown, cultural and religious diversity does not in and of itself guarantee peace and global acceptance of differences. National authorities and other key stakeholders must work together to build inclusive societies and combat the dissemination of divisive discourses which can give rise to feelings of insecurity among certain groups and can encourage the spread of nationalism, extremism and terrorism.

As representatives of the people, we should not only lead by example, but also by direct contact with people at the national and regional level. Transparency, accountability and respect for the rule of law and international human rights law should guide our relationships with cultural stakeholders and religious leaders. We have the obligation to pursue a global model of sustainable and peaceful diversity in order to effectively tackle intolerance, mistrust and violence.

As parliamentarians, we commit to working towards cultural pluralism and peace through interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue by:

Strengthening normative processes and legal frameworks:

- Ensure that national legislation is fully in line with the core international human rights instruments, as well as with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;
- Adopt legislative measures to protect and promote the identity of national, cultural, linguistic, religious or ethnic groups and their rights to live in community with others;
- Strengthen mediation processes at the national and global level as well as interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue to address ethnic, cultural and religious conflicts and foster trust between members of a multicultural society.

Making parliaments more representative and effective institutions:

- Introduce policies to ensure MPs are more representative of society in terms of gender, age, language, religion and ethnicity, including through the adoption of affirmative measures and provisions to guarantee that national minorities hold at least one seat in parliament and can participate in legislative bodies;
- Require governments to include an impact assessment on religious and ethnic minorities when submitting draft legislation and national budgets to parliament, in accordance with the objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind;
- Create sufficient opportunities for parliamentary discussions and debates through, for example, the establishment of parliamentary committees or inter-parliamentary commissions on cultural pluralism and religious diversity, in order to better understand and solve social conflicts through parliamentary action;

- Ensure that measures taken to prevent violent extremism are in full compliance with international human rights law and are not based on stereotypes or misconceptions;
- Support the creation of safe spaces for dialogue and the establishment of inclusive platforms in terms of gender, age, culture and religion, where key stakeholders can discuss local, regional and national actions related to religious diversity and cultural pluralism;
- Guarantee that MPs representing religious and ethnic minorities form part of national delegations attending international fora and deliberations, in particular IPU Assemblies and events.

Preventing human rights violations relating to culture and religion:

- Allocate sufficient resources to conduct awareness-raising activities on cultural and religious issues among law enforcement officers so as to strengthen their ability to identify and investigate hate crimes, in line with international standards and protocols;
- Build the capacity of outreach workers and mediators in order to create peaceful and trusting environments at the local and regional levels;
- Ensure that the legislative process is transparent, and that parliamentary records are made available and accessible so that religious and ethnic minorities can understand and follow the activity of MPs and hold them accountable for their actions;
- Design protection measures for all religious and ethnic minorities within the national territory, including non-citizens, migrants and newly arrived minorities.

Building social dialogue for multicultural and inclusive societies:

- Exercise effective budgetary oversight so as to prevent the funding of projects and organizations that promote hate and intolerance, openly combat hate speech in public discourse and online platforms, and support projects with a greater balance in terms of gender, culture and religion, particularly at local and regional levels, including through mixed housing areas, collective events and multicultural media;
- Collaborate with scientists on cultural and religious matters and work in partnership with local religious leaders to assess social challenges, such as the struggle against fundamentalism, and ensure that religious and cultural interpretations respect the human rights of all people, in particular women, young people and ethnic and religious minorities;
- Take concrete action to eliminate structural or systemic discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, including by implementing processes for the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by gender, age, language, ethnicity, religion, and other minority status.

Focusing on civic education and improving interpersonal skills:

- Promote the teaching of soft skills and human rights education at all levels of education, including the importance of religious pluralism and cultural diversity;
- Establish a national network on diversity comprising academic and professional experts in order to share best practices and successful diversity experiences and independently monitor the implementation of public policies;
- Enhance the role of science, promote holistic approaches and comparative methods in order to better explain globalization processes and their impact, and support ongoing training on religious pluralism and cultural diversity for public officials, including local authority workers and police officers.

Promoting international cooperation:

- Support international programmes that encourage interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue as well as projects to combat segregation and social fragmentation;
- Foster parliamentary diplomacy to address interfaith and inter-ethnic conflicts;
- Encourage interfaith initiatives aimed at building bridges and better understanding between communities;
- Consider holding a world conference on the interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, which could be organized together with the United Nations and with the participation of Heads of State, Speakers of Parliament and leaders of world religions.

We fully acknowledge that we have the means to make a difference. We therefore pledge to implement the recommendations listed above and call on the IPU to monitor the application of this Declaration.

Sharing our diversity: The 20th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Democracy

*Resolution adopted unanimously by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Acknowledging the significance of the IPU's 1997 Universal Declaration on Democracy and *taking note of* the world parliamentary community's extensive use of the Declaration,

Reaffirming the IPU's Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted in 1994 which confirms that in any State the authority of the government can derive only from the will of the people as expressed in genuine, free and fair elections,

Reiterating that democracy, human rights and the rule of law constitute universal, interdependent and mutually reinforcing ideals,

Taking into account the following United Nations instruments – the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992) and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action on Human Rights (1993),

Reaffirming the core elements set out in the Universal Declaration on Democracy, in particular the existence of representative institutions at all levels, and, notably, a parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has effective legislative and oversight powers, equal partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society, an independent judiciary, the holding of free and fair elections at regular intervals on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage, the right to organise political parties, the right to freedom of expression and assembly, including through electronic means of communication, active civil society, open and free media, and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, minorities and vulnerable or marginalized groups of people,

Referring to existing IPU resolutions, including those on human rights (2004), civil society (2005), universal democratic and electoral standards (2007); freedom of expression and the right to information (2009), youth participation in the democratic process (2010), citizen engagement in democracy (2013), democracy in the digital era (2015), women's political participation (2016), the threat posed by terrorism to democracy and human rights (2016), as well as the IPU's Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments (2012),

Noting that democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government, as stated in the Universal Declaration on Democracy, to be applied according to the modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural and political particularities, without derogating from internationally recognised principles, norms and standards,

Also noting the close relationship between democracy and sustainable development, and drawing attention to the importance of democratic governance for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as enshrined in the outcome document of the United Nations Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda entitled *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,

Confirming the central role of parliaments in democracy, and the need for representative, transparent, accessible, accountable and effective institutions at all levels,

Wishing to foster active citizen engagement in the democratic process and in the activities of governments at all levels, including among young people, and committed to achieving gender equality in political decision-making,

Underscoring the vital importance of a strong, pluralistic and freely operating civil society in keeping governments accountable, as well as of access to independent, credible and reliable information, and *reiterating* that freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy that permits the free flow of ideas,

Noting the new opportunities for democratic participation offered by digital media, as well as the challenges they can present, and *underscoring* the need to safeguard and promote fundamental rights, such as the right to personal safety and integrity, the right to privacy and the right to determine the disclosure and use of one's own personal data,

Also noting that peace, security and development are major enablers of democracy, and *expressing deep concern* about violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms, which aim to eliminate democracy, human rights and basic freedoms and which constitute a threat to peace and security,

Recognizing the importance of democratic principles in international relations and the important role of international and regional organizations in upholding these principles,

Expressing support for the 2007 UN General Assembly resolution 62/7 to designate 15 September as the International Day of Democracy,

1. *Reaffirms* that democracy is a universal value that does not belong to any country or region and that, as a system of government, democracy contributes to the fulfillment of human potential, the eradication of poverty, the development of open and peaceful societies and the improvement of relations among nations;
2. *Reiterates* that building a democratic society requires respect for international law and for the principles of the rule of law, human rights, respect for diversity and the equitable inclusion of all citizens, gender equality, and the protection of persons with disabilities, migrant workers and members of their family, national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as well as vulnerable or marginalized groups of peoples;
3. *Reaffirms* the role and the importance of the opposition as a key component of democracy, which criticizes and scrutinizes the government and the parliamentary majority, and represents political alternatives and the interests of the sections of the population in the political minority;
4. *Calls on* parliaments and all public institutions to take action and continually work to attain and uphold the principles and values established in the Universal Declaration on Democracy;
5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the separation of powers between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of government, *underscores* the importance of securing the independence of parliaments and the judiciary through the constitution and legislation, and *urges* parliaments to enhance their capacity to oversee the policies, administration and expenditure of the executive as part of a system of checks and balances;
6. *Calls on* parliaments to strengthen citizen engagement and public participation in the democratic process, and *encourages* parliaments to continue to improve their working methods to facilitate the participation of civil society and ordinary citizens in their deliberations;
7. *Urges* parliaments and governments to accelerate their efforts to achieve equality between men and women in decision-making processes at all levels of national, regional and international institutions, to ensure equality in all areas of life, including by introducing affirmative action in policies, legislation and gender-responsive budgeting, to provide for gender equality in the law and in practice, and to ensure gender-responsive democratic processes that duly include women's participation and perspectives;

8. *Calls on* parliaments and political parties to adopt measures to enhance active involvement and participation of youth in the electoral process and in parliament's business, as well as youth representation at all levels of national, regional and international institutions, including in parliament;
9. *Also calls on* parliaments to ensure that legislation is in place that fully guarantees and protects freedom of expression so that politicians, journalists, human rights defenders and other ordinary citizens can speak publicly on matters of concern without fear of reprisals, to denounce any such reprisals and to do everything in their power to ensure the protection of persons at risk and the punishment of those responsible for such acts;
10. *Urges* parliaments and governments to take legislative and institutional steps to ensure the progressive achievement and consolidation of democratic goals, including through the establishment of an independent and impartial mechanism for the management of elections;
11. *Calls on* parliaments to condemn and reject the removal of an elected government through unconstitutional means;
12. *Encourages* parliaments, governments, and political parties, journalists and civil society to denounce all forms of speech, including online, which degrades others, promotes hatred and encourages violence against any group; to promote respect for diversity and pluralism in public discourse; to build partnerships with technology companies and adopt all adequate legislative measures in order to prevent and eliminate hate speech, cyber harassment, bullying and violence, in particular against women and girls;
13. *Launches* an urgent appeal to parliaments to promote equal access for everyone to the Internet and new technologies, and the inclusion of civic education in the school curriculum, including education for democracy, human rights, inclusion and respect for diversity, gender equality, freedom of religion and sustainable development;
14. *Calls on* parliaments to enhance their contribution to achieving the SDGs, and to hold governments to account for progress in meeting development targets, in the spirit of leaving no-one behind;
15. *Urges* respect for democratic principles in inter-State relations as well as in international organizations, and *underlines* its conviction that principles of democracy must be applied to the international management of issues of common concern to humankind, in particular the human environment;
16. *Calls on* the IPU to continue to support efforts of parliaments to strengthen democracy and ensure good governance;
17. *Also calls on* IPU Member Parliaments to renew their efforts to implement the provisions of all IPU resolutions related to democracy, as well as the IPU Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments and *requests* the IPU to monitor and regularly report on progress as part of its overall strategy to promote democracy;
18. *Invites* the United Nations to examine the possibility of designating 30 June as the International Day of Parliamentarism in commemoration of the creation of the IPU on 30 June 1889.

Report of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

*Noted by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held two sittings on 17 and 18 October 2017 with its President, Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico), in the Chair.

Panel discussion on *The role of parliament in monitoring the action of national armed forces participating in UN peacekeeping operations,*

During the first panel discussion on 17 October the Committee heard one keynote expert, Mr. H. Born, Assistant Director and Head of the Policy and Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces. He presented the topic, focusing on the perspective of parliaments of troop contributing countries (TCCs). He explained that the generic functions of parliament can be applied to peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and underscored that there was no "best" system but that good practices with regard to parliamentary oversight of PKOs could be applied once adapted to local context.

Parliamentary oversight of PKOs required particular institutional arrangements especially at the committee level. Those arrangements included the passing of special legislation on deployments abroad (e.g. Sweden) or oversight at the early stages of international decision-making on missions abroad (e.g. Finland). Parliaments could also issue prior approval of deployments, whether for civilian, police/civilian and/or military operations.

A total of 18 speakers took the floor during the discussion that followed. Several of them from TCCs explained their monitoring practices and asked to be fully involved in PKOs from the outset and at all stages, in particular when the United Nations was planning the deployment of financial and human resources. Impunity was also the subject of much discussion and speakers exchanged experiences on how to combat abuses. Most of the participants expressed their parliament's views on the challenges they faced in exercising their oversight function of troops involved in PKOs and said that world leaders should realise that the time had come for parliaments to be involved in conflict prevention and management at the highest level.

Panel discussion, on *The implementation of a previous resolution on cyber warfare,*

The Standing Committee heard two panellists: Ambassador D. Stauffacher, President of the ICT4Peace Foundation and Mr. K. Geier, Head of International Cyber Policy Coordination Staff at the Germany's Federal Foreign Office. They discussed the challenges to the implementation of the 2015 IPU resolution and briefed the Standing Committee on the wider topic of cyber-security, with a view to enabling parliamentarians are able to tackle the real dimensions of the issue and to examine current and new threats to peace and global security. In the early 2000's the United Nations had begun reflecting on how ICT could contribute to peace. The tremendous development of the Internet over recent years meant that it had billions of users; such global connectivity had positive and negative aspects. The inexpensive development of tools and new means of interaction between people and governments made ICTs useful for peacebuilding and peacekeeping. That said, a peaceful, open and free cyberspace must not be taken for granted; cyber security was being challenged not only by criminals, hackers and terrorists but also for strategic purposes. ICTs, including social media, were used for terrorist purposes, the prevention of which should be key to new policies. A global security agenda was being devised and should be implemented to eliminate the problem. Confidence-building measures must also be implemented; confidence could be created through joint efforts by countries to tackle common challenges together. By working together to build confidence, security would be enhanced.

Although the potential damage that could be caused by ICTs had sometimes been compared to that of nuclear weapons, nuclear weapons had been used on two occasions, at a time when their effects were not fully understood. ICTs were already being used frequently in international conflicts. Even if they were not being used for cyberwarfare as such, they were becoming an element of conflict in conventional disputes or conflicts below threshold of real armed conflict. In other words, ICTs were already affecting international security.

A total of 17 speakers took the floor during the subsequent discussion. The majority of the interventions referred to good governance and the fact that sovereignty should be respected in cyberspace. They also underlined that malicious cyber activities by terrorists undermined economic development and threatened security, including endangering information, spreading computer viruses, instigating sabotage and promulgating fake data. While very few parliaments had actually taken steps to implement the 2015 resolution on cyber warfare, the representative of Pakistan explained that the Parliament of Pakistan had passed legislation on the prevention of electronic crime in 2016. The adoption of such legislation constituted a step towards preventing cybercrime and cyber warfare in general, and set out sanctions for offences in that regard.

Expert hearing on *Sustaining peace as a vehicle for achieving sustainable development*

On 18 October, the Standing Committee held an expert hearing on the topic of a resolution expected to be adopted by the 138th IPU Assembly in Geneva (Switzerland). The hearing opened with the statements by three experts: Mr. H.-J. Brinkman, Chief, Policy Planning and Application Branch/UN Peacebuilding Support Office, Ambassador G. Bächler, Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe for the South Caucasus and Mr. H. Born, Assistant Director and Head of the Policy and Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces.

They recalled that over the past two years, despite some US\$ 71 billion having been spent on peacekeeping around the world, very severe outbreaks/relapses of violence had continued in places like South Sudan and Yemen. They also highlighted that comprehensive approaches, inclusiveness, national ownership and partnerships were the key to development, and underscored the importance of peacebuilding both before and after conflicts, not just as a post-conflict effort that occurred after peace keeping, as had traditionally been the case. Such traditional approaches were less relevant given the changing nature of conflict. Early warning systems, which were urgently needed, were not yet well developed. Members of parliament had a responsibility to make early warning and prevention more robust and more accessible for political leaders to assist them in decision-making.

The speakers also drew attention to several studies on climate change and conflict in the 1990s, which had shown a link between scarcity of resources, pollution and conflict. In addition, the number of internal conflicts (domestic conflicts, civil wars) was increasing, and those conflicts tended to become internationalized. Mediation in such conflicts was partially successful and should be taken into account as a crucial means of reducing violence. If the international community did not care, conflicts would resume.

After hearing the experts' interventions, a total of 12 speakers, including one observer organization, took the floor. During the discussion participants agreed that there could be no peace without development and vice versa, and neither peace nor development without respect for human rights. Vibrant democracy was a vital tool for preventing conflict and obtaining sustainable peace.

They also recalled the resolution adopted during the 136th Assembly on *The role of parliament in respecting the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States*. Based on that resolution, all countries had a right to formulate their own sustainable development programmes development and control their own resources without supervision by other powers or parties, and should all enjoy just and fair exchange with partners.

One speaker summarized the discussions by saying that the draft resolution should include three main elements: the consolidation of democracy as the path to realizing peace and stability; the prevention of foreign interference in the affairs of States; and the importance of the interconnected nature of sustainable development and peace.

The two co-rapporteurs took the floor after the discussions to conclude and explain their preliminary views on the topics. They also gave information on the key moments in the timeframe for work between the 137th and the 138th Assemblies.

The report of the work of the Standing Committee was presented to the Assembly at its last sitting on 18 October by the President of the Standing Committee, Ms. L. Rojas (Mexico).

The Bureau of the Standing Committee met on 17 October 2016, with 14 out of 18 Bureau members present.

The President of the Committee began by informing the Bureau members about the discussions held during the Joint Meeting of Chairpersons of the Geopolitical Groups and Presidents of the Standing Committees, and the outcomes of the Meeting.

The Bureau established the Committee's work programme for the 138th IPU Assembly. It decided that the entire time allocated to the Committee should be devoted to discussion of its draft resolution. It also proposed that a side event on implementation of the ATT should be organized. These proposals were subsequently approved by the Standing Committee at the end of its last plenary sitting on 18 October.

Report of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Noted by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade met on 16 and 17 October 2017 with its Vice-President, Mr. A. Cissé (Mali), in the Chair.

Parliamentary contribution to the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference

During this segment, the Standing Committee discussed the draft outcome document of the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference that would take place on 12 November in Bonn.

The session started with a presentation of the study entitled "Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation", another important milestone in the cooperation between the IPU and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics and Political Science. The study and the associated database provided information about national climate change legislation and policies in 164 countries, as well as climate litigation cases from 25 countries. Ms. A. Averchenkova, Principal Research Fellow at the Grantham Institute, stressed that the database and the study constituted a tool that facilitated law-making as a first critical step in ensuring that the Paris Agreement translated into national action on climate change.

Ms. B. Höhn, member of the German Parliament and a co-rapporteur to the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn, introduced the draft outcome document to the Committee. She stressed that the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn could be fundamental to help understand how the policies and provisions set out in the Paris Agreement would be implemented at the national level. The draft document paid particular attention to the specific situation of the small island developing States (SIDS) and the urgent need to tackle the impact of climate change there.

Mr. J. Usamate (Fiji), a panellist, stressed that climate change was not a computer model but an imminent threat to the existence of many SIDS. Parliaments had an important role in countering climate change and must make use of opportunities to act and save entire nations. Action in the SIDS today would save lives in other countries tomorrow.

A total of 16 delegates took the floor and commented on the draft outcome document. They largely expressed agreement with the text and highlighted that the implementation of the Paris Agreement was a prime opportunity for all countries to transition from non-renewable to renewable energy sources. The particular vulnerability of the SIDS was underscored, as was the high cost of technology transfers. Participants were encouraged to submit all comments on the draft in writing. The SIDS parliaments presented the outcome document of the meeting they had held on 14 October and asked that it be made available to the participants of the Parliamentary Meeting in Bonn.

Debate on *Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy*

This debate was organized on the theme of the Standing Committee's forthcoming resolution, which was expected to be adopted at the 138th Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the debate was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to exchange views about opportunities and challenges in transferring from fossil fuels to renewable energy and engaging the private sector in the process. The debate also provided the co-rapporteurs with initial information about IPU Member Parliaments' approaches to the issue.

The theme was introduced by the co-rapporteurs, Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium) and Mr. Duong Quoc Anh (Viet Nam). They gave the perspectives of developed and developing countries. They stressed the need for stronger private sector engagement in the transfer to renewable energy, particularly in ensuring easier and more affordable access to technology.

Parliaments could do much to ensure this engagement and promote greater access to renewable energy. While there was generally sufficient political will to do this for large projects, such as solar energy fields, efforts were still needed to create the same momentum for small- and medium-sized projects. Particular attention should be paid to creating conditions that would make private sector investments more secure.

After the co-rapporteurs had spoken, the floor was given to Mr. A. Whiteman of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). He emphasized the easiness of access to renewable energy, which in most places in the world could be produced locally. The challenge was to ensure the transfer of technologies and the right legislative and policy framework to guarantee scale up.

Mr. Whiteman emphasized the important role of parliaments in that regard, while also underscoring that many parliamentarians faced the challenge of dealing with the vested interests of the traditional energy industry. Countering those challenges and working for the interests of the people should be a main concern for parliamentarians.

Evidence showed that in many countries people had decided to solve the problem for themselves and install solar panels on their houses. While the amount of electricity produced per household may not be big, the result was that cumulatively a lot of off-grid use of renewable energy went unrecorded. Parliaments needed to make sure that adequate legislative and policy frameworks were in place to regulate and support that positive popular movement.

A total of 25 delegates took part in the debate that followed. Most of them shared the good practices that their countries had put in place for transfers to renewable energy and several representatives provided specific examples of laws and policies that their parliaments had developed in that regard. The importance of ensuring accountability and transparency of contracts was also mentioned. Parliaments were encouraged to take urgent action as technology was developing fast.

To conclude the debate, the co-rapporteurs reflected on the input received and how they would like to include it in the draft resolution. They invited participants to send them written comments.

Panel discussion on *Using science and research to achieve the highest health standards*

The panel discussion was moderated by Ms. F. Bustreo, Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO). It benefitted from the expert contribution of Ms. N. Luo (Zambia); Ms. P. Locatelli (Italy); Mr. A. Rios, Associate Professor, University of Texas; Mr. P. Kakkatil, Director of Programme Partnerships, Innovations and Fundraising, UNAIDS; and Ms. E. Baybarina, Ministry of Health, Russian Federation.

Ms. Bustreo set the scene, highlighting the key role that parliamentarians could play in linking science with legislation and policy.

Ms. Luo explained that the Zambian Parliament had taken the advice of scientists to respond to the a recent HIV epidemic among young adolescents. Scientists had made a vital contribution to Parliament's understanding of the causes of the epidemic, thus enabling it to put in place effective legal and policy responses. It had emerged that the surge in HIV cases had been caused by an increased incidence of child marriage. As a result, a national strategy had been adopted to fight that practice.

Ms. Locatelli admitted that the Italian Parliament had found itself unprepared to respond to a rampant surge in inaccurate information about the effects of vaccines on children. Although the media had played a key role in conveying distorted messages, parliamentarians should continue to collaborate with the media to disseminate evidence-based messages and encourage parents to rely on accurate information.

Ms. E. Baybarina said that turning scientific evidence on sexual and reproductive health into policymaking was one of her Department's priorities and, to that end, constant interaction between scientists and politicians would be needed to bridge the gap between how scientists thought and how policymakers worked.

Mr. A. Rios also stressed the importance of bridging the gap between scientists and politicians. He called for an international agreement on principles to guide the interactions between politicians and scientists to do no harm. Altruism and common good should be the leading principles.

Mr. P. Kakkatil said that the AIDS movement provided plenty of information about how the positive effects of scientific advances ultimately reached and served the interests of all populations, regardless of their economic and social status. He also emphasized the need to include communities and their representatives in the health response at all levels in order to collect community-based data and better reach the most in need.

In the ensuing debate, 15 representatives took the floor. They highlighted the need for parliamentarians to work closely with scientists to develop informed legislation, on health specifically, and also more broadly.

They underscored the key role of scientific advances in the development of national economies and life standards, with a focus on health research and innovation that helped to produce new drugs, establish innovative medical facilities and services and ultimately reach unserved portions of population. Updated scientific evidence should be made available through parliamentary libraries. The role of parliaments in passing budget bills that included investments in scientific research was also highlighted. In some countries, scientific evidence had been used to strengthen legislation on child marriage and harmonize it with international standards, especially in humanitarian settings.

Elections to the Bureau

The Committee elected Mr. M. Djellab (Algeria) from the African Group and Ms. D. Soliz (Ecuador) from GRULAC to fill the existing vacancies on the Committee Bureau.

The Committee approved the proposal from the Bureau to dedicate time allocated to the Committee at the 138th IPU Assembly to the drafting of the resolution.

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

The President, Mr. Anti Avsan, opened the meeting.

The appointment of a new member to the committee's bureau, Ms. A. D. Dagban-Zonvide (Togo), was confirmed. The committee adopted the bureau's recommendation to suspend two members under Rule 10.2, Ms. G. Ortiz (Mexico) and Ms. A. Bimendina (Kazakhstan).

The record of the previous session was adopted without objection.

Mr. Avsan then proceeded to open the plenary debate, which consisted of two sessions.

Panel discussion on *The parliamentary dimension to the United Nations – 20 years in the making*

This panel discussion featured Ms. A. Filip, Director of External Relations (IPU), as main presenter, and Senator D. Dawson (Canada) as discussant. Fourteen interventions were made from the floor.

The debate took stock of the relationship between IPU and the UN over the past twenty years and assessed the extent to which the original vision of a "parliamentary dimension" to the work of the UN has been realized. As an intergovernmental organization, the UN cannot claim to fully represent "the peoples" of the world, as stated in its Charter, because most governments are elected with less than fifty per cent of the popular vote. At the same time, globalization has left many people clamoring for greater representation in international organizations, such as the UN.

As the world organization of national parliaments, the IPU is best positioned to link the elected representatives of the people to the UN and, in the process, help fill the "democracy gap in international relations". The UN itself has taken steps to welcome the contribution of parliaments to its decision-making processes, most notably by granting observer status to IPU. A number of UN resolutions and declarations over the years attest to the UN's openness to work closely with parliaments and with IPU to advance the international agenda in all domains, from peace and security to human rights, sustainable development and democracy. The UN General Assembly is expected to adopt a new resolution on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and IPU in the spring of 2018.

While the relationship between the two organizations has grown dramatically over the years, many challenges undoubtedly remain. The relationship is fundamentally asymmetric in that the UN is much larger than IPU and, as an inter-governmental organization, is keen to maintain its own political independence from the legislative branch. Despite IPU's success in contributing a parliamentary perspective to many UN processes, the UN is not obliged to take on board all of the political input it receives from parliaments or IPU. It does, however, need IPU's support to facilitate the implementation of UN agreements by national parliaments.

At the operational level, the UN and IPU work together under two cooperation agreements and through regular senior management meetings on an increasing number of projects and activities planned at their global headquarters. The relationship is somewhat more tenuous in the field, where UN Country Teams and national parliaments have yet to develop a structured approach to joint work.

Strengthened rapidly over several years, the relationship between IPU and the UN has more recently plateaued. This is partly because IPU lacks the resources to follow all relevant UN processes and to exploit all available opportunities for interaction, at both political and operational levels. At the same time, many parliaments are not equipped to process the outcome of UN processes directly or to hold their governments to account for their positions at the UN. Parliamentarians attending UN meetings all too often fail to report back to their colleagues. Ultimately, if IPU's relationship with the UN is to continue growing in strength and impact, national parliaments must themselves grow stronger vis-à-vis their respective governments.

Going forward, and in anticipation of next year's General Assembly resolution, the following recommendations emerged from the debate:

- Parliaments need to demand more regular reports on the UN from their governments, including by directly convening hearings with ambassadors and UN officials;
- MPs attending UN debates either as IPU delegates or as members of national delegations need to share information more systematically with their colleagues, so as to empower parliament as a whole and prompt debate on global issues;
- Parliaments need to allocate more financial and human resources to support their engagement in global affairs;
- In its dealings with the UN, IPU needs to advocate greater interaction between UN Country Teams and national parliaments;
- IPU's membership (176 parliaments) needs to more closely mirror the larger UN membership (193 countries);
- IPU needs to partner more closely with parliamentary networks, regional parliaments and other parliamentary organizations to better represent the entire global parliamentary community at the UN.

Panel discussion on *The role of the UN General Assembly in international governance: What path forward?*

This panel discussion featured Ambassador T. Christensen (Denmark), former Chief of Staff to two Presidents of the General Assembly, as main presenter, and Ms. M. Bartos, MP (Hungary) as discussant. Eight interventions were made from the floor.

The debate focused on the question of the relevance of the UN General Assembly (GA) in today's system of international governance. The GA, with a nearly universal membership of 193 sovereign states, is the chief deliberative body of the United Nations. While its resolutions are not legally binding, the GA plays a critical role as a convener of Member States to debate global issues and recommend action to address them. And yet, compared with the smaller and less representative Security Council, the GA has struggled over the years to assert its authority and heighten its prominence among parliamentarians and the public at large.

To help raise the GA's profile and improve its working methods, the UN set up an ad-hoc committee several years ago to develop recommendations for reform. Chief among them was a recommendation to strengthen the role of the President of the General Assembly (PGA), which for most of the GA's history has performed a ceremonial role. As a result, the PGA's mandate has been expanded and his/her office better equipped to play a stronger convening role, steer political negotiations, and help set the agenda. In particular, the PGA is now entrusted with a greater role in managing the process for the selection of the UN Secretary-General. This includes convening hearings of the GA with candidates to the post and keeping Member States informed at all stages of the selection process.

However, it is not clear that the stronger leadership role the PGA plays today will suffice to empower the GA in ways that would render it more relevant. Part of the problem is that information about the work of the GA is poorly communicated to capitals around the world. Another problem is that the GA's consensus-based decision-making process, which nurtures a spirit of compromise, can lead to weak political outcomes.

Two other challenges to the authority of the GA have emerged in recent years: one is the Security Council's tendency to encroach on issues normally within the GA's purview; another is the emergence of the G20, and possibly other such informal groups, whose limited membership and focused agendas tend to command more attention. Although the UN was not constituted originally to help manage the global economy, which is what allows the G20 to step into the breach, the UN will need to play a stronger role in this domain if it is to help countries implement the comprehensive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and attendant SDGs.

The following recommendations emerged from the debate:

- To the extent that a stronger role of the General Assembly in world affairs depends on its relationship with the Security Council, reforms of both bodies need to progress hand in hand. The Security Council in particular needs to be enlarged to better represent the GA's membership;

- IPU needs to provide direct input to the Ad Hoc Committee for the Reform of the General Assembly;
- IPU needs to work closely with the GA and the UN to help share GA resolutions and other outcomes with parliaments around the world.

In closing the session, the Committee President encouraged participants to hold debates on the relationship between their parliaments and the UN, the role they see for IPU in supporting that relationship, and the ways in which IPU and the UN can strengthen their cooperation. This will help prepare parliaments provide input for the upcoming GA resolution on interaction between the UN, national parliaments and IPU as soon as negotiations get underway in early 2018.

* * * * *

The UN process for the prohibition of nuclear weapons: What hope for nuclear disarmament?

In the afternoon of 16 October 2017, an interactive session was convened by the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs and the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, in cooperation with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND).

Moderated by Mr. A. Avsan, President of the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, this special joint session featured the following speakers: H.E. Ambassador E. Whyte-Gómez, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office in Geneva and President of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination; Mr. B. Blair, President and Founder of Global Zero; Mr. A. Ware, Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND); and Mr. J.-M. Collin, Associate Researcher at the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP) and member of ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons). The IPU President, Mr. S. Chowdhury, spoke briefly at the opening to highlight the importance of the issue and the need for MP engagement.

Discussion centred on the ground-breaking Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the United Nations on 7 July 2017. Once it enters into force, this treaty will effectively render the possession, acquisition or transaction of nuclear weapons and related materials illegal under international law. However, as per other such treaties, the nuclear prohibition treaty (as it is commonly known) will apply exclusively to its signatories. Given that only 122 non-nuclear States (albeit a majority of UN membership) voted in favour of the treaty, and that only 53 of those have signed it so far, the question today is how to engage the nine known nuclear States and their allies so that they will eventually join the treaty or take other steps of their own steps toward nuclear disarmament.

Much more powerful today than 70 years ago, nuclear weapons pose a real and present danger to both people and the environment. While global stockpiles have gone down considerably since the end of the Cold War, to a total of about 15,000 warheads, the risk of a nuclear holocaust killing millions of people and laying waste to entire countries, either by accident or miscalculation, has never been so high.

The nuclear prohibition treaty is consistent with the landmark Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1970, whose implicit grand bargain was for the nuclear States to give up their weapons in exchange for the non-nuclear States committing themselves to never develop or otherwise acquire such weapons. In essence, countries joining the nuclear prohibition treaty carry forward the NPT's vision of a nuclear weapons-free world. The nuclear prohibition treaty complements other treaties banning weapons of mass destruction – chemical and biological – that have proven their effectiveness. Together, these treaties demonstrate that the security of all nations requires the force of international law. Like its predecessors, the nuclear prohibition treaty changes the discourse about nuclear weapons from one that tolerates their possession or acquisition, as a fact of *realpolitik*, to one that stigmatizes such weapons as a matter of principle and out of a deep concern for human well-being.

The nuclear prohibition treaty has a number of provisions to allow all countries, including the nuclear States, to join. That is likely to happen, however, only if the comprehensive solution outlined in the treaty is supported by incremental steps to bring the nuclear States and their allies into the fold. First and foremost, the international community needs to promote confidence-building measures to set the stage for further disarmament negotiations. These measures include: a declaration by nuclear States that a nuclear war can never be won and should never be fought; a pledge by nuclear States that they

will never launch a nuclear attack on non-nuclear States; a declaration by the nuclear States against "first use" of nuclear weapons; and concrete steps by nuclear States to take their nuclear arsenals down from high alert and submit them to an internationally agreed verification system.

Given the impasse within the UN Disarmament Conference, a new opening toward a comprehensive solution on nuclear weapons may come with the United Nations High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, to be held in May 2018 in New York.

For the first time in an instrument of international law, the nuclear prohibition treaty explicitly calls on parliamentarians and other stakeholders to help strengthen the "public conscience" regarding the need for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, out of overarching moral considerations. Indeed, parliamentarians can take a number of steps toward nuclear disarmament, such as:

- Reach out to and engage with parliamentarians in countries that have yet to join the treaty (i.e., sign and ratify it), stressing that "inaction is no longer an option";
- Actively work to sensitize constituents and the public at large to the great danger of nuclear weapons, helping promote the sense of public outrage needed to pressure governments into action;
- Follow closely the process leading up to the 2018 High-Level Conference and require regular briefings from the government.

For its part, IPU must continue to engage with parliaments to build awareness of the nuclear prohibition treaty and all other initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

Threats to peace and international security arising from nuclear tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Mexico and Japan for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	478	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	686
Negative votes	208	Two-thirds majority.....	457
Abstentions	581		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan		Absent		France			18	Pakistan			20
Albania		Absent		Gabon			11	Palestine		6	5
Algeria			15	Germany	19			Panama	Absent		
Andorra			10	Ghana	7		7	Paraguay	Absent		
Angola			14	Greece	8		5	Peru	Absent		
Argentina	16			Guatemala	Absent			Philippines	10		
Armenia	9		2	Guinea	Absent			Portugal	13		
Australia	14			Guinea-Bissau	Absent			Qatar		8	
Austria	6		6	Guyana			10	Rep. of Korea	17		
Azerbaijan	Absent			Haiti	Absent			Rep. of Moldova	Absent		
Bahrain		11		Hungary	13			Romania			14
Bangladesh		20		Iceland	10			Russian Federation	10		10
Belarus	Absent			India	23			Rwanda	Absent		
Belgium	13			Indonesia		22		Samoa	Absent		
Benin			12	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)		9	9	San Marino	5		5
Bhutan	Absent			Iraq		10		Saudi Arabia		14	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		12		Ireland	Absent			Serbia	Absent		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Absent			Israel	12			Seychelles	Absent		
Botswana	Absent			Italy			17	Singapore	12		
Brazil	22			Japan	10			Slovakia	Absent		
Bulgaria	Absent			Jordan		12		Slovenia	Absent		
Burkina Faso	Absent			Kazakhstan	Absent			Somalia			11
Burundi	Absent			Kuwait			11	South Africa			17
Cabo Verde	10			Kyrgyzstan	Absent			Spain	Absent		
Cambodia	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic	8		4	Sri Lanka	Absent		
Cameroon	Absent			Latvia	11			Sudan		15	
Canada	15			Lebanon			11	Suriname			10
Central African Republic	Absent			Lesotho	Absent			Swaziland	Absent		
Chad	13			Liechtenstein			10	Sweden		13	
Chile	7		6	Luxembourg	Absent			Switzerland	6		6
China	4		19	Madagascar			10	Syrian Arab Rep.	Absent		
Colombia	10			Malawi	Absent			Tajikistan	Absent		
Comoros			10	Malaysia			14	Thailand	Absent		
Congo	Absent			Maldives	Absent			The fYR of Macedonia	Absent		
Costa Rica	10			Mali	Absent			Timor-Leste	Absent		
Côte d'Ivoire	10		3	Malta	Absent			Togo	Absent		
Croatia	Absent			Mauritania			10	Tunisia			13
Cuba		13		Mauritius			10	Turkey			18
Cyprus	Absent			Mexico	20			Turkmenistan	Absent		
Czech Republic	13			Micronesia (Fed. States of)	8			Tuvalu	Absent		
DPR of Korea		12		Monaco	Absent			Uganda			15
DR of the Congo			17	Mongolia	Absent			United Arab Emirates		11	
Denmark	10			Morocco		15		United Kingdom	18		
Djibouti			10	Mozambique	Absent			United Republic of Tanzania			15
Dominican Rep.	Absent			Myanmar	17			Uruguay			11
Ecuador			13	Namibia			10	Uzbekistan	Absent		
Egypt			19	Netherlands	Absent			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	7	5	3
El Salvador			12	New Zealand	Absent			Viet Nam	19		
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nicaragua			8	Zambia	Absent		
Ethiopia			10	Niger	Absent			Zimbabwe			13
Fiji	Absent			Nigeria			20				
Finland	Absent			Norway	Absent						
				Oman			11				

Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar

Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Morocco, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Kuwait, Islamic Republic of Iran, Sudan and Turkey for the inclusion of an emergency item

R e s u l t s

Affirmative votes.....	1,027	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	1,062
Negative votes	35	Two-thirds majority.....	708
Abstentions	205		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Afghanistan	<i>Absent</i>			France	18			Pakistan	20		
Albania	<i>Absent</i>			Gabon	11			Palestine	11		
Algeria	15			Germany	19			Panama	<i>Absent</i>		
Andorra	10			Ghana	14			Paraguay	<i>Absent</i>		
Angola	14			Greece	7		6	Peru	<i>Absent</i>		
Argentina	16			Guatemala	<i>Absent</i>			Philippines	10		
Armenia	6		5	Guinea	<i>Absent</i>			Portugal	13		
Australia	14			Guinea-Bissau	<i>Absent</i>			Qatar	8		
Austria	12			Guyana	10			Rep. of Korea			17
Azerbaijan	<i>Absent</i>			Haiti	<i>Absent</i>			Rep. of Moldova	<i>Absent</i>		
Bahrain	11			Hungary	13			Romania	14		
Bangladesh	20			Iceland	10			Russian Federation	10		10
Belarus	<i>Absent</i>			India			23	Rwanda	<i>Absent</i>		
Belgium	13			Indonesia	22			Samoa	<i>Absent</i>		
Benin	12			Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	18			San Marino			10
Bhutan	<i>Absent</i>			Iraq	10			Saudi Arabia	14		
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	12			Ireland	<i>Absent</i>			Serbia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<i>Absent</i>			Israel			12	Seychelles	<i>Absent</i>		
Botswana	<i>Absent</i>			Italy	17			Singapore			12
Brazil	22			Japan			10	Slovakia	<i>Absent</i>		
Bulgaria	<i>Absent</i>			Jordan	12			Slovenia	<i>Absent</i>		
Burkina Faso	<i>Absent</i>			Kazakhstan	<i>Absent</i>			Somalia	11		
Burundi	<i>Absent</i>			Kuwait	11			South Africa	17		
Cabo Verde			10	Kyrgyzstan	<i>Absent</i>			Spain	<i>Absent</i>		
Cambodia			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic			12	Sri Lanka	<i>Absent</i>		
Cameroon	<i>Absent</i>			Latvia	11			Sudan	15		
Canada	15			Lebanon	11			Suriname	10		
Central African Republic	<i>Absent</i>			Lesotho	<i>Absent</i>			Swaziland	<i>Absent</i>		
Chad	13			Liechtenstein	10			Sweden	13		
Chile	13			Luxembourg	<i>Absent</i>			Switzerland	10		2
China		8	15	Madagascar	10			Syrian Arab Rep.	<i>Absent</i>		
Colombia		10		Malawi	<i>Absent</i>			Tajikistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Comoros	10			Malaysia	14			Thailand	<i>Absent</i>		
Congo	<i>Absent</i>			Maldives	<i>Absent</i>			The fYR of Macedonia	<i>Absent</i>		
Costa Rica	10			Mali	<i>Absent</i>			Timor-Leste	<i>Absent</i>		
Côte d'Ivoire	13			Malta	<i>Absent</i>			Togo	<i>Absent</i>		
Croatia	<i>Absent</i>			Mauritania	10			Tunisia	13		
Cuba	13			Mauritius	10			Turkey	18		
Cyprus	<i>Absent</i>			Mexico	20			Turkmenistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Czech Republic	3		10	Micronesia (Fed. States of)			8	Tuvalu	<i>Absent</i>		
DPR of Korea	12			Monaco	<i>Absent</i>			Uganda	15		
DR of the Congo	17			Mongolia	<i>Absent</i>			United Arab Emirates	11		
Denmark	10			Morocco	15			United Kingdom	18		
Djibouti	10			Mozambique	<i>Absent</i>			United Republic of Tanzania	15		
Dominican Rep.	<i>Absent</i>			Myanmar		17		Uruguay	11		
Ecuador	13			Namibia	10			Uzbekistan	<i>Absent</i>		
Egypt	19			Netherlands	<i>Absent</i>			Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	15		
El Salvador	12			New Zealand	<i>Absent</i>			Viet Nam			19
Equatorial Guinea			11	Nicaragua	8			Zambia	<i>Absent</i>		
Ethiopia	10			Niger	<i>Absent</i>			Zimbabwe	13		
Fiji	<i>Absent</i>			Nigeria	20						
Finland	<i>Absent</i>			Norway	<i>Absent</i>						
				Oman	11						

Humanitarian situation in Rakhine State**Results of the roll-call vote on the request of the delegation of Myanmar
for the inclusion of an emergency item****Results**

Affirmative votes.....	47	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	674
Negative votes	627	Two-thirds majority.....	449
Abstentions	593		

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

Ending the grave human crisis, persecution and violent attacks on the Rohingya as a threat to international peace and security and ensuring their unconditional and safe return to their homeland in Myanmar

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 137th IPU Assembly
(St. Petersburg, 17 October 2017)*

The 137th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the Resolution adopted unanimously by the 117th IPU Assembly (Geneva, 10 October 2007) on *The urgent need to immediately stop the widespread human rights violations and to restore the democratic rights of the people of Myanmar*, and also recalling the Resolution adopted unanimously by the 133rd IPU Assembly (Geneva, 21 October 2015) on *The role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, parliaments, parliamentarians, and international and regional organizations in providing necessary protection and urgent support to those who have become refugees through war, internal conflict and social circumstances, according to the principles of international humanitarian law and international conventions*,

Reaffirming the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 70/233, 68/242, 67/233 and 66/230 on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Taking into account the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1963), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and the First Optional Protocol (1966),

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/238 which recognizes the Rohingya ethnic minority in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar and United Nations General Assembly resolution 69/248 which urges the Government of Myanmar to grant citizenship and equal rights to the Rohingya ethnic minority,

Profoundly distressed by the continuing violence, forced displacement and serious violations of human rights experienced by ethnic Rohingya in the Rakhine State of Myanmar,

Particularly shocked by the practice of ethnic cleansing in the Northern Rakhine State of Myanmar which is aimed at the displacement or destruction of ethnic or religious groups,

Expressing concern over the unprecedented exodus of the Rohingya to Bangladesh and the humanitarian and potential security consequences for Bangladesh and the region,

Taking note of the United Nations Secretary-General's comments and concerns regarding ethnic cleansing,

Welcoming the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to assist the forcibly displaced Rohingya by offering temporary refuge and *appreciating* the support provided by United Nations agencies and other countries and international partners,

Deeply concerned by the placing of anti-personnel mines in violation of international norms along the border to prevent the Rohingya from returning to Myanmar,

Welcoming the final report and recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State led by Kofi Annan,

Expressing deep sorrow for the victims of the atrocities perpetrated by the Myanmar security forces and extremist ethnic Rakhine civilian vigilantes and *also expressing* profound sympathy to the Rohingya,

* The delegation of China expressed a reservation on parts of the resolution, while the delegation of Myanmar rejected the entire resolution.

1. *Strongly condemns* all gross violations of human rights in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, including the loss of many innocent lives, and, particularly, the abhorrent practice of ethnic cleansing, and *calls on* the Government of Myanmar to cease these violations with immediate effect and ensure full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, without distinction of race or religion;
2. *Supports* the United Nations Human Rights Council's decision to send an independent, accountable multinational team to investigate the alleged human rights violations committed by the security forces in Rakhine State;
3. *Expresses grave concern* regarding the recent atrocities perpetrated by security forces and their extremist civilian accomplices against the Rohingya minority, which constitute serious and blatant violations of international laws;
4. *Calls upon* the authorities of Myanmar to take urgent and immediate action to end all violence and to confront all practices that are in violation of human rights, international law and the international covenants;
5. *Also calls upon* the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council and all relevant international and regional organizations to urgently intervene without delay and halt the human tragedy affecting the Rohingya minority, and to address the crisis, which represents a threat to international security and peace;
6. *Appreciates* the efforts of the Government of Bangladesh to provide some one million distressed Rohingya with, inter alia, shelter, food, sanitation, water and medical attention;
7. *Also appreciates* the Government of Indonesia's support for the processes of military reform and democratization in Myanmar by respecting democratic values and ensuring the protection of minorities;
8. *Further appreciates* the solidarity expressed by other countries, as well as United Nations agencies and other international organizations to the forcibly displaced Rohingya, and the support and assistance that they have provided;
9. *Invites* all IPU Member Parliaments to join the efforts towards securing the basic rights of the Rohingya, extending humanitarian support to the Rohingya and supporting the action of Bangladesh and the international community aimed at the sustainable return of the Rohingya people to their homeland of Myanmar, and *also invites* them to contribute to the restoration of stability and security in Rakhine State;
10. *Regrets* that the Parliament of Myanmar has yet to take any measures to halt the violence and put an end to the tragic situation affecting the Rohingya in Rakhine State;
11. *Strongly stresses* that the Government of Myanmar must eliminate the root causes of the crisis, including the denial of citizenship to the Rohingya people based on the 1982 Citizenship Act which has led to their statelessness and deprivation of their rights, and to their continued dispossession;
12. *Firmly calls upon* the authorities of Myanmar to grant citizenship and all other rights to the Rohingya people, including freedom of movement and access to the labour market, education and health and social services;
13. *Calls on* the Government of Myanmar
 - (a) to cease the violence and practice of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State immediately, unconditionally and forever,
 - (b) to ensure the sustainable return of all forcibly displaced Rohingya sheltered in Bangladesh to their homes in Myanmar within the shortest possible time,
 - (c) to implement the recommendations of Kofi Annan's Commission Report immediately, unconditionally and entirely;

14. *Urges* the international community, in particular the United Nations, to seriously consider further action to address the ongoing crisis in Myanmar and *calls on* the Government of Myanmar to urgently grant access to the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission to Myanmar so that it can conduct a thorough and independent investigation into all alleged atrocities and gross violations of human rights in Rakhine State;
15. *Recommends strongly* the creation, as required, of temporary safe zones inside Myanmar under United Nations supervision to protect all civilians irrespective of religion and ethnicity;
16. *Calls for* a sustainable solution to the human rights situation in Rakhine State through the formulation of a peace-building plan;
17. *Also calls for* inclusive integration programmes for Rohingya refugees in the receiving countries;
18. *Recommends* unfettered media and humanitarian access in the Northern Rakhine State;
19. *Strongly calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to take measures against the anti-Rohingya hate campaign in Myanmar as well as to stop civilian vigilantism and extremism;
20. *Urges* all parliaments to encourage their respective governments to intensify diplomatic pressure on Myanmar at all levels to put an end to the tragic situation in the Rakhine State of Myanmar which constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security;
21. *Calls on* the IPU through its Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law to explore appropriate and practical measures to be undertaken by the global parliamentary community to address the situation of the Rohingya people and provide a peaceful and sustainable solution to the crisis and, in particular, to invite all IPU Member Parliaments to inform the IPU of all measures they have taken in that regard in order that the IPU may report on the implementation of this Resolution at the 138th IPU Assembly;
22. *Requests* the IPU Secretary General to convey the present resolution to the IPU Member Parliaments, the United Nations Secretary-General and the relevant international and regional organizations;
23. *Resolves* to remain vigilant regarding further developments in Myanmar.

Presidential statement on the state of democracy in the world today

*Endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 201st session
(St. Petersburg, 18 October 2017)*

We are witnessing a worrying trend around the world: parliaments as institutions are coming under assault and Members of Parliaments are finding themselves increasingly under threat. As your President, I have spoken out against such events, which I consider to be attacks on democracy itself.

In many of these situations, the causes or symptoms of the crisis are similar: freedom of expression is under attack, making it very difficult for parliamentarians, the press and civil society to speak out against abuses; the powers of parliaments are undermined by the other branches of government: the executive and the judiciary; national election commissions are not functioning properly and are seen as instruments of the government to ensure their stay in power, and rampant corruption undermines basic notions of equality before the law and of accountable and well-managed public finances.

In this respect, I wish to denounce in the strongest terms the assassination of Ms. Daphne Caruana Galizia, a well-known journalist and researcher from Malta who led the Panama Papers investigations. We must speak out in defence of investigative journalism and in defence of the brave men and women journalists around the world who risk life and limb to bring us the facts. We express our sympathy and solidarity with the family of Ms. Galizia, who paid the ultimate price for denouncing corruption.

At a time when dialogue is most needed to resolve crises, we are seeing delegations coming to our Assemblies that do not represent the full spectrum of political views in the parliament. Members of Parliament are being targeted through threats, reprisals and other forms of intimidation, and political space is shrinking in many countries. I call for the release of Mr. Kem Sokha and all political prisoners, the safe return of all Cambodian MPs in exile, and an end to attacks on civil society and independent media. The report of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians is illustrative of this worrisome trend.

I am deeply concerned by the political situation in Cambodia, where criminal proceedings are allegedly being used to silence the opposition and prevent it from playing a meaningful role in the lead-up to the elections in 2018. Equally disturbing is the situation in the Maldives, where diminishing freedoms and a schism between the ruling party and the opposition are taking on troubling dimensions and are disrupting the functioning of the parliament.

In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the parliament's powers are being usurped and the principle of the separation of powers of the State is being undermined. Members of Parliament complain of harassment and intimidation by the authorities for merely discharging their duties. Violence has broken out due to seemingly irreconcilable differences between the ruling party and the opposition-led parliament and the economy is on a downward spiral, causing great suffering for the people of Venezuela. We stand in unequivocal solidarity with the institution of parliament and the National Assembly of Venezuela. The situation in Yemen has become a woeful humanitarian catastrophe, claiming thousands of innocent lives. The rift between opposing factions has led to a divided institution of parliament, a war-torn country and untold suffering for the Yemeni people. We are, however, heartened by the commitment expressed by the MPs of both factions of parliament to facilitate access to humanitarian assistance.

The IPU brings together the global community of parliaments. As members of this community, we are bound together by shared values and principles. Many of these are enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Democracy (<http://www.ipu.org/cnl-e/161-dem.htm>) whose 20th anniversary we celebrated last month. We must stand up in defence of the fundamental values and principles articulated in this Declaration; we must practise what we preach, upholding the spirit and the letter of democracy and its ideals. We must continue to be the torchbearers of tolerance, political dialogue and peaceful solutions. We must never forget that before all else we have been elected to serve the interests of our people and their aspirations for a life of dignity and opportunity, in peace and safety.

We have a tried and tested tool at our disposal – parliamentary diplomacy. We have used it on many occasions in the past: during the Cold War, in the years leading up to the Helsinki process on security and cooperation in Europe, and then later through the establishment of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean. We are employing it today in the context of the Israeli-

Palestinian conflict, with the IPU promoting projects of peace for the region. The meetings facilitated at our Assemblies between Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot political parties are yet another concrete example of the constructive and preventive nature of parliamentary diplomacy, and its ability to defuse or avert tensions through peaceful means.

Parliaments and parliamentarians of the world, I call on you to fly the flag high through your words, but more importantly, through your deeds. I appeal to you to speak out every time the institution you embody and your parliamentary peers come under attack in one form or another. The IPU's Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians has been doing this for decades. It is at times like these that we must stand together in a display of parliamentary solidarity. History will judge us harshly if we fail to do so. I entreat each and every one of us, therefore, to sign up to the IPU campaign in defence of democracy.

I would like to express our heartfelt sympathy and solidarity with the islands in the Caribbean which have felt the full onslaught of recent hurricanes and natural disasters. In a similar show of parliamentary solidarity, I appeal to parliaments to provide assistance or cause assistance to be provided to these small island developing States as they recover and try to rebuild.

Lastly, I would like to restate the IPU's strong commitment to a nuclear-weapon-free world. The IPU was founded on the fundamental principle of resolving differences through peaceful means and political dialogue. The Organization has always advocated for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament yet there are still countries in the world that do not respect United Nations Security Council resolutions prohibiting nuclear testing. Given the devastating impacts, including humanitarian, of a nuclear event, whether by accident, miscalculation or design that cannot be limited in time and space, the global parliamentary community must stand firm and work together towards the achievement of a world free of nuclear weapons.

Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly Carbon Footprint Report 2017

*Endorsed by the IPU Executive Committee at its 276th session
(St. Petersburg, 17 October 2017)*

Message from the IPU President

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, has made significant impacts on promoting sustainable development throughout its activities over the past decades. Today it is equally committed to placing its stamp on promoting sustainable environment and carbon-neutral activities. Consequently, the IPU leadership decided to make the 136th IPU Assembly and its related meetings, hosted in Dhaka, Bangladesh, a "Green Assembly". The IPU, as the global body of policymakers, is willing to join hands together with global stakeholders by offsetting its carbon emissions generated due to associated energy- and resource-consuming activities during the Assembly.

Green conventions or assemblies are events which are conducted in ways which minimize the environmental burdens imposed by such activities. Green conventions apply environmentally preferred practices to waste management, resource and energy use, travel and local transportation, facilities selection, siting and construction, food provision and disposal, hotels and accommodation, and management and purchasing decisions. A green assembly or event incorporates environmental initiatives to minimize its negative impact on the planet.

It is expected from this initiative that the IPU will make its action on the environment an example of sustainability by taking appropriate mitigation initiatives to protect the environment as promised by world leaders to ensure a better, more liveable and pollution-free atmosphere for future generations. Quantifying greenhouse gas emissions (GHE), known as a "carbon footprint assessment", is the first step in evaluating the impact of any activities on the environment. The next step is to adopt appropriate actions to offset carbon emissions in order to become carbon neutral, which will assure a harmonious balance between consumption and conservation.

A carbon footprint is a measure of the impact of human activities on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide equivalents. Carbon footprint measurements are recommended as part of the climate strategies for organizations, projects or events to control and reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses. The measurement acts as a tool to determine the most significant sources of GHG emissions, to prioritize reduction initiatives, and lastly, to offset the emissions to achieve carbon neutrality.

The GHG emissions associated with the 136th IPU Assembly and related meetings will be mitigated and offsetting will be selected considering local requirements.

If we pay attention to the needs of most of the communities who live in rural areas, we will find that they lack access to clean and affordable household energy solutions, specifically, clean and efficient cooking solutions. Over 89 per cent of people in Bangladesh cook with traditional fuels such as firewood, jute sticks, agricultural waste and charcoal. Most use traditionally designed, inefficient stoves, causing high amounts of biomass consumption, indoor air pollution, environmental degradation and most importantly, deforestation.

Women who use old-style stoves and children who spend long hours in the kitchen are exposed to large amounts of pollutants and toxins that are particularly damaging to health. Household air pollution (HAP) contributes to 78,000 premature deaths annually in Bangladesh. Currently, there are approximately 30 million households still using traditional polluting cook stoves and the numbers of those with access to clean cooking solutions remains close to 3 per cent, meaning that the choice of improved cook stoves as a means of mitigating the carbon emissions resulting from the 136th IPU Assembly in Dhaka would be a welcome and useful one.

Improved cook stove distribution is also a priority for the Government of Bangladesh, aiming to ensure the supply of 30 million clean and energy efficient cook stoves by 2030. By contributing to this initiative, the IPU can play a vital role in helping the country to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In light of the environmental conservation commitment of the IPU leadership, it is very clear that the IPU is laying the cornerstone for protecting the environment, conserving energy and resources, helping to accelerate the pace of clean energy adoption, alleviating poverty and empowering women globally, in order to create a greener environment and cleaner air for our children, the leaders of tomorrow. The IPU invites all global leaders to extend their hand of cooperation to replicate this model in their own national contexts, as well as to their neighbourhoods, to make the earth greener.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those involved in this endeavour, both from IPU Headquarters in, Geneva, Switzerland, and the local IPU Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, for helping to make this happen. Last but not least, a special word of thanks goes to Future Carbon for taking the lead in carrying out this unique environmental assessment in order to make this event a carbon-neutral one. We appreciate their enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism in conducting and implementing local offsetting mechanisms to mitigate the emissions resulting from the 136th Assembly.

* * * * *

Executive Summary

As part of corporate social responsibility commitments to global sustainability, the IPU leadership decided to make the 136th Assembly in Dhaka, Bangladesh a "green" or carbon-neutral meeting. It commissioned a carbon footprint assessment to evaluate the environmental impact of the event, which was the first assessment of its kind undertaken by the IPU. The assessment aimed to identify, track and quantify the carbon emission activities generated by the Assembly and pinpoint areas for carbon reduction or offsetting.

This report therefore provides the outcome of that carbon footprint assessment and details the 136th Assembly's total energy usage and net greenhouse gas emissions in terms of tCO₂e (tons of carbon dioxide equivalent). It has been prepared in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, the most widely-used international accounting tool for understanding, quantifying and managing greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions have been calculated using the 2016 emission conversion factors devised by the United Kingdom's Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, in compliance with ISO 14064-1:2006 on the quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals. The carbon footprint assessment boundary was set around those activities over which the IPU had operational control and emission sources were attributed to one or more of the following categories:

- **Scope 1 emissions:** Direct greenhouse gas emissions from assets owned or controlled by the IPU.
- **Scope 2 emissions:** Indirect greenhouse gas emissions from purchased electricity, heat, steam and cooling.
- **Scope 3 emissions:** Other indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the activities of the Organization.

The scope of carbon emissions during the 136th Assembly and related meetings was as follows:

Scope 1 Direct Emissions	Scope 2 Indirect Emissions	Scope 3 Indirect Emissions
Fuel combustion	Purchased electricity	Travel (by air) Travel (over land) Transport (logistics) Accommodation Water use Waste disposal

The carbon dioxide equivalent of these three scopes of carbon emissions equated to:

Scope 1 Direct Emissions		Metric tons of CO₂e
Fuel combustion		1.69
Total Scope 1 Emissions		1.69
Scope 2 Indirect Emissions		Metric tons of CO₂e
Purchased electricity		55.48
Total Scope 2 Emissions		55.48
Total Scope 1 and 2 Emissions		57.17
Scope 3 Indirect Emissions		Metric tons of CO₂e
Travel (by air)		3,030.01
Travel (over land)		14.43
Transport (logistics)		4.25
Accommodation		267.5
Water use		0.07
Waste disposal		3.56
Total Scope 3 (Indirect) Emissions		3319.82
Total Reporting (Net) Emission		3376.99

The breakdown of greenhouse gas emissions in terms of tCO₂e disaggregated by scope and by delegate is shown below:

Emissions Scope	Metric tons of CO₂e	Delegates	Emissions/Delegates (tCO₂e)
Total Scope 1 Emissions	1.69	1,280	0.002
Total Scope 2 Emissions	55.48	1,280	0.06
Total Scope 1 and 2 Emissions	57.17	1,280	0.04
Total Scope 3 Emissions	3319.82	1,280	2.59
Total Reporting Emissions	3376.99	1,280	2.63

The gross greenhouse gas emission summary for the 136th Assembly and related events is contained in the following table, disaggregated by scope and activity:

Scope	Activity	Emission (tCO₂e)	Percentage (%)
Scope 1	Fuel combustion	1.69	0.05
Scope 2	Purchased electricity	55.48	0.13
Scope 3	Travel (by air)	3030.01	89.73
	Travel (land)	14.43	0.430
	Travel (logistics)	4.25	0.13
	Accommodation	267.5	7.93
	Water use	0.07	0.0
	Waste disposal	3.56	0.11
	Total		3376.99

As highlighted in the tables above, most of the carbon emissions at the 136th Assembly came from air travel, accommodation and energy use. Carbon emissions reductions are most commonly delivered through energy reduction. Given that traditional, highly polluting cook stoves are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions in Bangladesh, the IPU leadership took the decision to distribute improved stoves as a means of reducing national energy consumption and offsetting the carbon emissions resulting from the 136th Assembly. This proved to be an extremely effective and efficient solution. By making clean and energy-efficient stoves available to the local Bangladeshi population, the IPU not only played a vital role in helping Bangladesh make tangible progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, it also guaranteed that the 136th Assembly was an entirely carbon-neutral and green event.

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<p>ROMERO, Juan Carlos (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the Senate Vice-President, Economy and Investment Committee, Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PJ)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de l'économie et des investissements, Commission des affaires constitutionnelles, Commission des affaires étrangères</i></p>
<p>SCHMIDT LIERMANN, Cornelia (Ms./Mme)</p>	<p>Member of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the External Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UP)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des relations extérieures</i></p>
<p>CARMONA, Guillermo (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i></p>
<p>ROMA, Carlos (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the Chamber of Deputies National Defence Committee Member of the Economy and Industry Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i> <i>Commission de l'économie et de l'industrie</i></p>
<p>TUNESSI, Juan Pedro (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i></p>	<p>Parliamentary Secretary of the Senate <i>Secrétaire parlementaire au Sénat</i></p>
<p>BESTANI, Simon (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Director General of Parliamentary Diplomacy, Senate <i>Directeur général de la diplomatie parlementaire, Sénat</i></p>
<p>CINCUNEGUI, Juan De Dios (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i></p>	<p>Director General of the International Relations, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur général des relations internationales, Chambre des Députés</i></p>
<p>POGORILES, Carlos (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Advisor, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i></p>
<p>PERRONE, Damián (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Advisor, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i></p>
<p>LAGORIO, Ricardo Ernesto (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i></p>	
<p>CHERNIAK, Carlos (Mr./M.) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i></p>	

(RP: Republican Proposal / Proposition républicaine)
 (UCR: Union Civica Radical)
 (MPN: Neuquino Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire Neuquino)
 (PJ: Justicialist Party / Parti justicialiste)
 (FV: Victory Front / Front pour la victoire)
 (UP: Union Pro)

ARMENIA - ARMENIE

BABLOYAN, Ara (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 (HHK)</i>
SHARMAZANOV, Eduard (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)</i>
ATSHEMYAN, Karine (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité, Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK) Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, de la jeunesse et du sport</i>
HARUTYUNYAN, Khosrov (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (HHK)</i>
ISAYAN, Shake (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on European Integration <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP) Commission permanente de l'intégration européenne</i>
NAZARYAN, Lena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Territorial Administration, Local Self-Government, Agriculture and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CC) Commission permanente de l'administration territoriale, de l'autonomie locale, de l'agriculture et de l'environnement</i>
AVAGYAN, Karen (Ms./Mme) Advisory Group on Health <i>Groupe consultatif sur la santé</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BABAYAN, Arsen (Mr./M.)	Head of the Public Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des relations publiques, Assemblée nationale</i>
BIYAGOV, Victor (Mr./M.)	Head of the Department of Foreign Relations, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des relations étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
GHAZARYAN, Zabela (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senior Specialist of the Foreign Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Spécialiste principale au Département des relations étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
HOVHANNISYAN, Artak (Mr./M.)	Head of the Protocol Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
SAGHATELYAN, Ara (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Chief of Staff, Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
KOCHARYAN, Inessa (Ms./Mme)	Chief specialist, National Assembly <i>Spécialiste principale, Assemblée nationale</i>
TOGHANYAN, Vardan (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

KARAPETYAN, Hrayr (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

CHILINGARYAN, Hayk (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

TOVMASYAN, Murad (Mr./M.)

Press / *Presse*

GABRIELIAN, Ashot (Mr./M.)

Press / *Presse*

(HHK: Republican Party of Armenia / Parti républicain arménien)

(PAP: Prosperous Armenia Party / Parti arménien de la prospérité)

(CC: Civil Contract / Contrat civil)

AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE

MACDONALD, Ian (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

KETTER, Chris (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate

Membre du Sénat (LPA)

Member of the Senate

Membre du Sénat (ALP)

WILSON, Josh (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (ALP)

MATULICK, Toni (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

Committee Secretary, Senate

Secrétaire de commission, Sénat

TESCH, Peter (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

PURCELL, Siobhan (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat / *Diplomat*

(LPA: Liberal Party of Australia / Parti libéral australien)

(ALP: Australian Labor Party / Parti travailliste australien)

AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

WENINGER, Hannes (Mr./M.)

Head of Delegation, Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation, Chef de la délégation

KARLSBOECK, Andreas F. (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (SPÖ)

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (FPÖ)

MOSER, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Council

Chairperson of the Court of Audit Committee

Membre du Conseil national (Grüne)

Présidente de la Commission de la Cour des comptes

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national (ÖVP)

VAVRIK, Christoph (Mr./M.)

VELBERG, Sophie (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

International Relations Department Austrian Parliament

Département des relations internationales, Parlement autrichien

KOLLER-LENHARDT, Hartmut (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomat*

(SPÖ: Social Democratic Party of Austria / Parti social démocrate)

(ÖVP: Austrian People's Party / Parti populaire)

(FPÖ: Austrian Freedom Party / Parti de la liberté)

(Grüne: Greens / Les Verts)

AZERBAIJAN – AZERBAIDJAN

ASADOV, Ogtay (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AGAYEVA, Ulviyya (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MURADOV, Fuad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GAFAROVA, Sahiba (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ISMAYILOV, Shahin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MIRZOYEV, Safa (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
IBRAHIMOV, Rashid (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
HAJIYEV, Firudin (Mr./M.)	Head of the General Administration Directorate, National Assembly <i>Chef de la Direction de l'administration générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
MAMMADOV, Ilkin (Mr./M.)	Head of the Protocol Service, National Assembly <i>Chef du Service du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
MAMMADOV, Vugar (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
JAFAROV, Aydin (Mr./M.)	Permanent Representative of the Milli Majlis at IPA CIS <i>Représentant permanent de de l'Assemblée nationale auprès de l'AIP de la CEI</i>
HAJIYEV, Tural (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
ISMAILOV, Firudin (Mr./M.)	Consultant
MAMADOV, Janiz (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
BAKHTIYAROV, Rashad (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
NURAHMADOVA, Aynur (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
ALIYEVA, Mehriban (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
BAKHTIYAROV, Rashad (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
MAMMADOV, Elchin (Mr./M.) Vice-Consul / <i>Vice-Consul</i>	
MAMMADOV, Samir (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
GASIMOV, Sultan (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	

BAHRAIN – BAHREIN

ALMULLA, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Shura Council <i>Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
FAKHRO, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>

SALMAN, Jameela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
TAQAWI, Sawsan (Ms./Mme) 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 Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil Consultatif</i>
ALARADI, Ali (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALJAWDER, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
JAFFAR, Adel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALSAMMAK, Jameela (Ms./Mme) 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 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 of Council of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil des représentants</i>
ALJASIM, Nayef (Mr./M.)	Presidency's Affairs Specialist <i>Spécialiste des affaires de la présidence</i>
ALQATTAF, Ameerah (Ms./Mme)	Parliamentary Relations Development Supervisor, Council of Representatives <i>Superviseur du développement des relations parlementaires, Conseil des Représentants</i>
MARHOON, Yusuf (Mr./M.)	Director, Relations and Media, Shura Council <i>Directeur des relations et des médias, Conseil consultatif</i>
SHBEB, Weaam (Mr./M.)	Staff / <i>Secrétariat</i>
ALSAATI, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
ABDULLAH, Waleed (Mr./M.) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	

BANGLADESH

RABBI, Fazle (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament Chairman of the Library Committee Business Advisory Committee Committee on Petitions <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de bibliothèque</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission des pétitions</i>
FEROZ, A S M (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the House Committee Business Advisory Committee Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président du Comité de la Chambre</i> <i>Comité consultatif sur les affaires</i> <i>Commission permanente des règles de procédure</i>
CHOWDHURY, Noor E Alam (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Committee on Estimates House Committee Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions

	<i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des évaluations</i> <i>Comité de la Chambre</i> <i>Commission des projets de lois et des résolutions</i>
AZAD, Abul Kalam (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Planning / Library Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère de la planification / Commission de bibliothèque</i>
CHOWDHURY, A B M Fazle Karim (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of Parliament Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Railways Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Public Administration <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente du Ministère des chemins de fer</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'administration publique</i>
RASHID, Kazi Firoz (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Post, Telecommunication and Information Technology <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère des postes, des télécommunications et des technologies de l'information</i>
BADSHA, Fazle Hossain (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament House Committee Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives <i>Membre du Parlement (WPB)</i> <i>Comité de la Chambre</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'administration locale, du développement rural et des coopératives</i>
MILLAT, Md. Habibe (Mr./M.) Advisory Group on Health <i>Groupe consultatif sur la santé</i>	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Social Welfare <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de la protection sociale</i>
KHAN, Waseqa Ayesha (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Public Accounts <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente des comptes publics</i>
TUHIN, Sabina Akter (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Textiles and Jute <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère du textile et du jute</i>
RASHID, Md. Mamunoor (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Education <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i> <i>Commission permanente du Ministère de l'éducation</i>
ATIK, Md. Atiur Rahman (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
NATH, Pankaj (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>

HOWLADER, Md. Abdur Rob (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP
NURUZZAMAN, Md. (Mr./M.)

Senior Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire principal, Parlement

CHAKRABORTTY, Kallal Kumar (Mr./M.)

Additional Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement

ASHRAF, Md. Ali (Mr./M.)

Private Secretary to the Deputy Speaker, Parliament
Secrétaire particulier du Vice-Président, Parlement

KHAN, Naimul Azam (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary, Parliament
Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement

BHUYAN, A K M Abdur Rahim (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, Parliament
Directeur adjoint, Parlement

HOQUE, S. M. Saiful (Mr./M.)

Assistant Secretary, Parliament
Assistant, Parlement

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

MONSUR, Shah Mohammad Tanvir (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(AL: Bangladesh Awami League / Ligue Awami du Bangladesh)

(WPB: Workers Party of Bangladesh / Parti des travailleurs du Bangladesh)

(JP: Jatiya Party / Parti Jatiya)

BELARUS

MYASNIKOVICH, Mikhail (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

PIRSHTUK, Boleslav (Mr./M.)

Chairman of the Council of the Republic

Président du Conseil de la République

RAKHMANOV, Sergei (Mr./M.)

Deputy Chairman of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

Member of the Council of the Republic

Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs
and National Security

Membre du Conseil de la République

*Président de la Commission permanente des affaires
étrangères et de la sécurité nationale*

BAZANOV, Vladimir (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives

Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Commission on
National Security

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

*Vice-Président de la Commission de la sécurité
nationale*

NAUMCHIK, Alla (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives

Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Commission on
Environment, Natural Resources and Chernobyl
Catastrophe

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

*Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente de
l'environnement, des ressources naturelles et de la
catastrophe de Tchernobyl*

KOGUT, Viktor (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Deputy Secretary General of the IPA CIS Council

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

Secrétaire général adjoint de l'AIP de la CEI

SOROKIN, Denis (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

Principal Counsellor of the International Cooperation
Department, House of Representatives

*Conseiller principal du Département de la coopération
internationale, Chambre des Représentants*

BELGIUM – BELGIQUE

VAN DEN DRIESSCHE, Pol (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Group of facilitators for Cyprus, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate Chairman of the Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Community Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs Parliamentary Committee on the Legislative Follow-up <i>Membre du Sénat (N-VA)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des matières transversales - Compétences communautaires</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i> <i>Comité parlementaire chargé du suivi législatif</i>
DESTEXHE, Alain (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group, Advisory Group on Health <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Groupe consultatif sur la santé</i>	Member of the Senate Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (MR)</i> <i>Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i>
GROUWELS, Brigitte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on Institutional Affairs Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Community Competences <i>Membre du Sénat (CD&V)</i> <i>Commission des affaires institutionnelles</i> <i>Matières transversales - Compétences communautaires</i>
GRYFFROY, Andries (Mr./M.) Rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Rapporteur de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Member of the Senate Committee on Cross-cutting Issues - Regional Competences Advisory Committee on European Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (N-VA)</i> <i>Commission des matières transversales - Compétences régionales</i> <i>Comité d'avis chargé des questions européennes</i>
BATTHEU, Sabien (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Deputy Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure, Communications and State Enterprises Committee on the Interior, General Affairs and Civil Service Select Committee on Rules and Reform of Parliamentary Proceedings <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Open VLD)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de l'infrastructure, des communications et des entreprises publiques</i> <i>Commission de l'intérieur, des affaires générales et de la fonction publique</i> <i>Commission spéciale du règlement et de la réforme du travail parlementaire</i>
CRUSNIÈRE, Stéphane (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee on External Relations Committee on Finance and Budget Special Committee for Follow-up on Missions Abroad <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PS)</i> <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i> <i>Commission des finances et du budget</i> <i>Commission spéciale chargée du suivi des missions à l'étranger</i>

JADIN, Katrin (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Chair of the Dieselgate Special Committee
Vice Chair of the Committee on External Relations
Special Committee on Climate and Sustainable
Development
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MR)
Présidente de la Commission spéciale Dieselgate
Vice-Présidente de la Commission relations extérieures
Commission spéciale Climat et développement durable
Former Senator
Ancien Sénateur

MAHOUX, Philippe (Mr./M.)

Honorary Member of the delegation

Membre honoraire de la délégation

VAN DER HULST, Marc (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group and to the delegation

Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

PELEMAN, Martin (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation

Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation

(N-VA: New Flemish Alliance / Nouvelle alliance flamande)

(MR: Movement for Reform / Mouvement Réformateur)

(CD&V: Flemish Christian Democrats / Démocrates chrétiens flamands)

(Open VLD: Flemish Liberals / Libéraux flamands)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

Secretary General, House of Representatives
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
Director, Senate
Directeur, Sénat

First Executive Adviser, House of Representatives
Premier Conseiller de direction, Chambre des
Représentants

BENIN

HOUNGBEDJI, Adrien (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

OKOUNLOLA, Akambi André (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)

BAKO-ARIFARI, Nassirou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AA)

HOUDEGBE, Octave Cossi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AND)

MITOKPE, Dossou Guy (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RE)

DAFIA OUASSAGARI, Abiba (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FCBE)

HOUETOGNANKOU, G. Jude C. G. (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer to the Speaker of the National Assembly
Chargé du protocole du Président de l'Assemblée
nationale

IDRISSOU, Alassane (Mr./M.)

Assistant, Committee on External Relations,
Development Cooperation, Defence and Security,
National Assembly
Assistant de la Commission des Relations Extérieures,
de la Coopération au Développement, de la Défense et
de la Sécurité, Assemblée nationale

KOUNDE, Lerya (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

ZANNOU, Senandé Donald (Mr./M.)

Aide de camp to the Speaker

Aide de Camp du Président

KOTO SOUNON, René (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

MOUSSE, Smaila Raoufou (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomat*

Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Assemblée Nationale
National Assembly
Assemblée nationale

COLLY, Pierre (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomat*

(PRD: Party for Democratic Renewal / Parti du Renouveau Démocratique)

(AA: AMANA Alliance / Alliance AMANA (Elu sur la liste FCBE))

(AND: National Alliance for Democracy and Development / Alliance nationale pour la démocratie et le développement)

(FCBE: Cauri Forces for an Emerging Benin / Forces Cauris pour un Bénin Émergent)

(RE: Restaurer l'Espoir)

BHUTAN – BHOUTAN

KINGA, Sonam (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

DORJI, Sonam (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Council

Président du Conseil national

Member of the National Council

Economic Affairs Committee

*Membre du Conseil national**Commission des affaires économiques*

DORJI, Tempa (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council

Good Governance Committee

*Membre du Conseil national**Commission de la bonne gouvernance*

KHANDU, Sangay (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council

Chairperson of the Economic Affairs Committee

Foreign Relations Committee

*Membre du Conseil national**Président de la Commission des affaires économiques**Commission des relations étrangères*

RINZIN, Jigmi (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Council

Chairperson of the Natural Resources and Environment
Committee*Membre du Conseil national**Président de la Commission des ressources naturelles et
de l'environnement*

DORJI, Rinzin (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Chairperson of the Foreign Relations Committee

Economic Development and Private Sector Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)**Président de la Commission des relations étrangères**Commission du développement économique et du
secteur privé*

WANGCHUK, Pelzang (Mr./M.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights*Bureau de la Commission permanente
de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

Member of the National Assembly

Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee

Finance Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)**Président du Comité des droits de la personne**Commission des finances*

WANGMO, Kezang (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Social and Cultural Committee

Women, Children and Youth Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDP)**Commission des affaires sociales et culturelles**Commission de la femme, de l'enfant et de la jeunesse*

DAKPA, Pema (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

DUBA, Sangay (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Member of the National Council

Membre du Conseil national

Secretary General, National Assembly

Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale

TSHERING, Chencho (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, National Council

Secrétaire général, Conseil national

(PDP: People's Democratic Party / Parti démocratique du peuple)

BOLIVIA – BOLIVIE

MENDOZA FERNANDEZ, Edith (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Funding and Trade <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS-IPSP) Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>
CHOQUE TARQUE, Hebert (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee on Human Rights Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS-IPSP) Commission des droits de l'homme</i>
ITAMARI CHOQUE, Ruth Betsaida (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (MAS-IPSP)</i>
ZABALA MONTENEGRO, Mery Elina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UD)</i>
BRITO SANDOVAL, Sonia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
SILVA GUZMÁN, Valeria (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
(MAS-IPSP: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)	
(UD: Democratic Unity / Unité démocratique)	

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE

KOŽUL, Predrag (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Committee on Finance and Budget Committee for the Preparation of the Election of the Council of Ministers Joint Committee on Supervision of the Work of Intelligence and Security Agency <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (HDZ) Président de la Commission des finances et du budget Commission pour la préparation des élections du Conseil des ministres Commission mixte du contrôle du travail de l'agence de renseignement et de sécurité</i>
NOVIC, Sredoje (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples Second Deputy of the Constitutional-Legal Committee Joint Committee on Administrative Affairs Joint Committee on Economic Reforms and Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des Peuples (SNSD) Deuxième Vice Président de la Commission constitutionnelle et juridique Commission mixte des affaires administratives Commission mixte des réformes économiques et du développement</i>
MEHMEDOVSKI, Enida (Ms./Mme)	Protocol, House of Representatives <i>Protocole, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SRDANOVIC, Vlade (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina / Union démocratique croate de Bosnie-Herzégovine)	
(SNSD: Alliance of Independent Social Democrats / Parti social-démocrate indépendant)	

BOTSWANA

MOLATLHEGI, Kagiso P. (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Wildlife, Tourism, Natural Resources
and Climate Change
Portfolio Committee on Governance and Oversight
Chair of the Standing Committee on National Assembly Staff
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)
*Comité du portefeuille de la faune, du tourisme, des
ressources naturelles et du changement climatique*
*Comité du portefeuille de la gouvernance et de la
surveillance*
*Président de la Commission permanente du Secrétariat de
l'Assemblée nationale*

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile M. (Ms./Mme)
President of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights
*Présidente de la Commission permanente
de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

Member of the National Assembly
Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on Women
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)
Présidente du Forum parlementaire des femmes

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*
Comité consultatif sur les affaires

GAOLATHE, Ndaba N. (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic
Development / Finance and Estimates Committee
Public Accounts Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDC)
*Comité du portefeuille de la finance, du commerce et du
développement économique*
Commission des finances et des prévisions budgétaires
Commission des comptes publics

KENEWENDO, Bogolo J. (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Portfolio Committee on Health and HIV/AIDS
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence, Justice, Security and Government Assurances /
Parliamentary Caucus on Women
Public Accounts Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)
Comité du portefeuille de la santé et du VIH/SIDA
*Présidente du Comité du portefeuille des affaires
étrangères, de la défense, de la justice, de la sécurité et des
assurances gouvernementales / Forum parlementaire des
femmes*
Commission des comptes publics

DITHAPO, Barbara N. (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk, National Assembly
Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale
SAUBI, Babui (Ms./Mme)
Principal Clerk Assistant II, Parliamentary Committees
Secretary of Group
Division, National Assembly
*Adjointe au greffier principale II, Commissions
parlementaires, Assemblée nationale*

Secretary of Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party / Parti démocratique botswanais)

(UDC: Umbrella for Democratic Change / Collectif pour le changement démocratique)

BRAZIL – BRESIL

OLIVEIRA, Eunício (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal Senate <i>Président du Sénat fédéral (PMDB)</i>
RODRIGUES, Maria Helena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
CAMELI, Gladson (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on Science, Technology, Innovation, Communication and Computer Science <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PP)</i> <i>Commission des sciences, de la technologie, de</i> <i>l'innovation, de la communication et de l'informatique</i>
GRAZZIOTIN, Vanessa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Federal Senate Committee on International Affairs Committee on Constitution, Justice and Citizenship <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral (PCdoB)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution, de la justice et de la</i> <i>citoyenneté</i>
VIANA, Jorge (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal Senate <i>Membre du Sénat fédéral</i>
CAJADO, Claudio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (DEM)</i>
LINS, Atila (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Vice-President of the Group <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Vice-Président</i> <i>du Groupe</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee of International Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSD)</i> <i>Commission des relations internationales</i>
MORAES, Jo (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PCdoB)</i>
PORTELLA, Iracema (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PP)</i>
VASCONCELOS, Jarbas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PMDB)</i>
PASSARINHO, Joaquim (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
JUNIOR, Jutahy (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
BARRETO, Mauro (Mr./M.) Adviser, Member of the ASGP <i>Conseiller, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur adjoint, Chambre des Députés</i>
ARAÚJO, Sílvia (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Federal Senate / <i>Conseillère, Sénat fédéral</i>
MEIRELLES, Ana Tereza (Ms./Mme)	Protocol, Federal Senate <i>Protocole, Sénat fédéral</i>
LOUREIRO, Marcos (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Chamber of Deputies <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Députés</i>
SALGADO, Antonio (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
RESENDE, Igor (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
KUZMINA, Anna (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
FARANI, Marco (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
FABIAN, Henrique (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
BOTCHAROV, Mikhail (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(PP: Progressive Party / Parti progressiste)
 (PMDB: Brazilian Democratic Movement Party / Parti du mouvement démocratique brésilien)
 (PSDB: Brazilian Social Democracy Party / Parti social-démocrate brésilien)
 (PCdoB: Communist Party of Brazil / Parti communiste du Brésil)
 (DEM: Democrats / Démocrates)
 (PSD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

BULGARIA – BULGARIE

<p>KARAYNCHEVA, Tsveta (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i></p>	<p>Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Committee on Regional Policy, Urban Development and Local Self-Government Committee on Agriculture and Foods <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (GERB)</i> <i>Commission de la politique régionale, du développement urbain et de l'autonomie locale</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation</i></p>
<p>DZHAFER, Nigyar (Ms./Mme)</p>	<p>Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Healthcare Committee <i>Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (DPS)</i> <i>Commission des soins de santé</i></p>
<p>CHUKOLOV, Desislav (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on the Internal Security and Public Order Committee for Control of the Security Services, the Application and Use of the Special Intelligence Means and the Data Access under the Electronic Communications Act <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission de la sécurité intérieure et de l'ordre public</i> <i>Commission du contrôle des services de sécurité, de la mise en oeuvre des moyens de renseignement spéciaux et de l'accès aux données selon la loi sur les communications électroniques</i></p>
<p>MIHAYLOV, Georgi (Mr./M.)</p>	<p>Member of the National Assembly Foreign Policy Committee Healthcare Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BSP)</i> <i>Commission de la politique extérieure</i> <i>Commission des soins de santé</i></p>
<p>KARASLAVOVA, Stefana (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i></p>	<p>Secretary General of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i></p>
<p>ALEXANDROVA, Stefka (Ms./Mme) Administrative Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire administrative de la délégation</i></p>	<p>State Expert, International Relations and Protocol Directorate, National Assembly <i>Experte d'Etat, Direction des relations internationales et du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i></p>
<p>PANOV, Svetlozar (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i></p>	

(GERB: Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria Party / Citoyens pour le développement européen de la Bulgarie)
 (DPS: Movement for Rights and Freedoms / Mouvement pour les droits et les libertés)
 (UP: United patriots / Patriotes Unis)
 (BSP: Bulgarian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste bulgare)

BURKINA FASO

<p>SAKANDE, Bala Alassane (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i></p>	<p>Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i></p>
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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>
OUEDRAOGO, Honorine W. Sawadogo (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAREN)</i>
OUEDRAOGO, Ousmane (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CDP)</i>
TAPSOBA, Tibo Jean Paul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)</i>
OUATTARA, Lassina (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPP)</i>
ZOBILMA, Emma (Ms./Mme)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
KOUBIZARA, Henri (Mr./M.)	President of the Burkina-Russia Friendship Group, National Assembly <i>Président du groupe d'amitié Burkina-Russie, Assemblée nationale</i>
Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
PARE, Noufou (Mr./M.)	Directeur du protocole, National Assembly <i>Protocol Director, Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAORE, Karamoko Jean Marie (Mr./M.)	Directeur de la diplomatie parlementaire, National Assembly <i>Parliamentary Diplomacy Director, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOMDA, Antoine (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</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</i>
Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
NIYONGABO, Anicet (Mr./M.)	Second Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
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>	
NIYONSENGA, Glorioso (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NKUNZIMANA, Jean Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GWABAHUNGU, Marc (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
NIYONZIMA, Renovat (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HAVYARIMANA, Venuste (Mr./M.)	Assistant, National Assembly <i>Assistant, Assemblée nationale</i>
NDAYIHIMBAZE, Alexis Badian (Mr./M.)	Spokesperson, National Assembly <i>Porte-parole, Assemblée nationale</i>
NICIMPAYE, Jean Nepos (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol, National Assembly <i>Chef du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
BIZIMANA, Edouard (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	

CABO VERDE

TAVARES CORREIA, Austelino (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 (MpD)</i>
DIAS DOS SANTOS, Ana Paula (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Education, Culture, Health, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAICV)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, de la santé, de la jeunesse, des sports et des affaires sociales</i>
ALFAMA PEREIRA, Celita Annie (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly External Relations Cooperation and Communities Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MpD)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération des relations extérieures et des communautés</i>
CORREIA PEREIRA, Francisco (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Communities Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAICV)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères et des communautés</i>
PEREIRA SOARES DA COSTA, Isa Filomena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly External Relations Cooperation and Communities Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MpD)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération des relations extérieures et des communautés</i>
GOMES, Joaquim Augusto (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Technical Adviser <i>Technicien parlementaire</i>

(MpD: Movement for Democracy / Mouvement pour la démocratie)

(PAICV: African Party for the Independence of Cabo Verde / Parti africain pour l'indépendance du Cabo Verde)

CAMBODIA – CAMBODGE

TEP, Ngorn (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the Senate <i>Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
YANG, Sem (Mr./M.)	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, de l'instruction des plaintes et des enquêtes</i>
PUM, Sichan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Health, Social Affairs, Youth Rehabilitation and Labour <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé, des affaires sociales, de la réinsertion des jeunes et du travail</i>
CHHIT, Kimyeat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
HUN, Many (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KHIEU, Muth (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
OUM, Sariith (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>

SRUN, Dara (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i> KUCH, Sinith (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary-General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i> Adviser to the President of the Senate <i>Conseiller du Président du Sénat</i>
DAV, Ansan (Mr./M.)	Assistant to Mr. Hun Many, National Assembly <i>Assistant de M. Hun Many, Assemblée nationale</i>
PO, Sovannareth (Mr./M.)	Chief of Cabinet of the Vice-President of the Senate <i>Chef du Cabinet du Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
CHHIM, Sothkun (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol, Senate <i>Directeur du protocole, Sénat</i>
HEANG, Thul (Mr./M.)	Director of the International Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Directeur du Département des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOM, Savuth (Mr./M.)	Director of Information Technology Department, Senate <i>Directeur du Service des technologies de l'information, Sénat</i>
KIM, Sochetra (Mr./M.)	Assistant, Senate <i>Assistant, Sénat</i>
TEP, Charya (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of Protocol and International Relations, Senate <i>Directeur adjoint du protocole et des relations internationales, Sénat</i>
HOK, Bunly (Mr./M.)	Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Assemblée nationale</i>
SAY, Pagnvathtey (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Chief, Cabinet of the Vice-President of the Senate <i>Chef adjoint du Cabinet du Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
SOK, Pisey (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Chief of the Multilateral Office of the National Assembly <i>Chef du Bureau multilatéral de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
YAN, Phoumika (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Chief of the Multilateral Office of the National Assembly <i>Chef adjoint du Bureau multilatéral de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
XICSETH, Ker (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
LIM, Sophea (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
CHAMRON, Suphat (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
KOSAL, Sovanvirak (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
MEY, Chamroeun (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

CAMEROON - CAMEROUN

CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
TJOUES, Geneviève (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
ABDOULAYE, Aboubakary (Mr./M.)	First Vice President of the Senate <i>Premier Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
TSOMELOU, Jean (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (SDF)</i>

TABETANDO, Ndieb Nso (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (RDPC)</i>
EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent De Paul (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
AHIDJO, Oumoul Koultchoumi (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UNDP)</i>
KEGNE MAFONG EPSE FOTSO, Joséphine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDPC)</i>
MONJOWA LIFAKA, Emilia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	
KASSOULOUM, Abba Kabir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
LUMA ATEMKENG, Eric (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Senate <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
INDJECK, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Presidency of the Republic <i>Conseiller, Présidence de la République</i>
MOUGNOL MEKENG, Pauline Mireille (Ms./Mme)	Director, General Administration, National Assembly <i>Directrice de l'Administration générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire Administratif</i>	
(RDPC: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement Démocratique du Peuple camerounais)	
(UNDP: National Union for Democracy and Progress / Union Nationale pour la Démocratie et le Progrès)	

CANADA

MCGUINTY, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (LPC)</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
DAWSON, Dennis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Chair of the Transport and Communications Committee Foreign Affairs and International Trade Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (LPC)</i> <i>Président du Comité des transports et des communications</i> <i>Comité des affaires étrangères et du commerce international</i>
TKACHUK, David (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate
	Chair of the Standing Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures, and the Rights of Parliament Standing Committee on Internal Economy, Budgets and Administration <i>Membre du Sénat (CPC)</i> <i>Président de la Commission permanente des banques, des échanges et du commerce</i> <i>Commission permanente du règlement, de la procédure et des droits du Parlement</i> <i>Commission permanente de l'économie interne, du budget et de l'administration</i>
DAMOFF, Pam (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons
	Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on the Status of Women Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security Member of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (LPC)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité de la condition de la femme</i>

MILLER, Larry (Mr./M.)

*Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du
Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale
Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale*
Member of the House of Commons
Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Safety
and National Security
Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing
Committee on Public Safety and National Security
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)
Vice-Président du Sous-comité du programme et de la
procédure du Comité permanent de la sécurité publique
et nationale*

MULCAIR, Thomas (Mr./M.)

Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale
Member of the House of Commons
Membre de la Chambre des Communes (NDP)

REMPEL, Michelle (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Commons
Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (CPC)
Comité permanent de la citoyenneté et de l'immigration*

SPENGEMANN, Sven (Mr./M.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights
*Bureau de la Commission permanente
de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme*

Member of the House of Commons
Standing Committee on National Defence
Standing Committee on Public Safety and National
Security
Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure of the Standing
Committee on Public Safety and National Security
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes (LPC)
Comité permanent de la défense nationale
Sous-comité du programme et de la procédure du
Comité permanent de la sécurité publique et nationale*

ROBERT, Charles (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

FORGE, Frédéric (Mr./M.)

Advisor to the Group / *Conseiller du Groupe*

Clerk of the House of Commons, House of Commons
Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Communes
Analyst, Library of Parliament, House of Commons
*Analyste, bibliothèque du Parlement, Chambre des
Communes*

GRAVEL, Line (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

International and Inter-Parliamentary Affairs Directorate,
Senate
*Direction des affaires internationales et
interparlementaires, Sénat*

RICHARDSON, Jessica (Ms./Mme)

Secretary, Senate
Secrétaire au Sénat

KIM, Nicola (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(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)

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE

M'BAIKOUA, Timoléon (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale***CHAD – TCHAD**

GATTA, Gali Ngotte (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Member of the National Assembly

Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Planning

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale**Président de la Commission de l'économie et du plan*

AYMADJI, Opportune (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Committee on Defence and Security

KODIA, Hamid Moustapha (Mr./M.)	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> <i>Commission de la défense et de la sécurité</i> Member of the National Assembly NTI Communication Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPS)</i> <i>Rapporteur de la Commission Communication NTI</i>
MAÏNA, Tchari Madi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDP)</i>
NEATOBEL, Bidi Valentin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PAP-JS)</i>
HAMIDI, Béchir Issa (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire Administratif</i>	Committee Assistant, National Assembly <i>Assistant de commission, Assemblée nationale</i>

(MPS: Patriotic Salvation Movement / Mouvement patriotique du salut)
(RDP: Rally for Democracy and Progress / Rassemblement pour la démocratie et le progrès)
(PAP-JS: African Party for Peace and Justice / Parti africain pour la paix et la justice)

CHILE – CHILI

JARAMILLO BECKER, Enrique (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Internal Regime and Administration <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PPD)</i> <i>Commission du gouvernement interne et de l'administration</i>
PASCAL ALLENDE, Denise (Ms./Mme) President of the Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Family and Elderly Committee Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development Committee Work and Social Security Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PS)</i> <i>Commission de la famille et des aînés</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture, des forêts et du développement rural</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la protection sociale</i>
LETELIER, Juan Pablo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
DE MUSSY, Felipe (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples Committee Work and Social Security Committee Treasury Commission <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (IDU)</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme et des peuples indigènes</i> <i>Commission du travail et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Commission de la trésorerie</i>
LEÓN RAMÍREZ, Roberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Treasury Committee National Defence Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> <i>Commission de la trésorerie</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i>
WALKER, Patricio (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Constitutional Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PDC)</i> <i>Commission des affaires constitutionnelles</i>

LANDEROS PERKIC, Miguel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
LABBÉ, Mario (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
OSES, Juan (Mr./M.)

PEILLARD GARCIA, Jacqueline (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

FONTECILLA, Mariano (Mr./M.)
Diplomatic Adviser / *Conseiller diplomatique*

MAURAS PÉREZ, Marta (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

(PS: Socialist Party / *Parti socialiste*)

(IDU: Independent Democratic Union / *Union des démocrates indépendants*)

(PPD: Party for Democracy / *Parti pour la démocratie*)

(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / *Parti démocrate-chrétien*)

Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés
Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat
Deputy Director, Foreign Affairs Department
Directeur adjoint du Département des affaires étrangères
Director of International Affairs, Chamber of Deputies
Directrice des affaires internationales, Chambre des Députés

CHINA – CHINE

ZHANG, Ping (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

DOU, Shuhua (Mr./M.)

WANG, Xiaochu (Mr./M.)

WU, Xiaoling (Ms./Mme)

NI, Yingda (Mr./M.)

WANG, Wen (Mr./M.)

ZHANG, Junan (Mr./M.)

HUANG, Yiyang (Mr./M.)

YU, Wentao (Mr./M.)

LAN, Mei (Ms./Mme)

SHEN, Zheyi (Mr./M.)

JIN, Bo (Mr./M.)

WANG, Xiaoyan (Ms./Mme)

JIN, Linlin (Mr./M.)

ZHUANG, Youyi (Mr./M.)

LOU, Menghan (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the National People's Congress
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

Member of the National People's Congress
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale

Member of the National People's Congress
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Commission des affaires étrangères

Member of the National People's Congress
Financial and Economic Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Commission des affaires financières et économiques

Member of the National People's Congress
Law Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale
Commission des lois

Deputy Director-General, National People's Congress
Directeur général adjoint, Assemblée populaire nationale

Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Conseiller, Ministère des affaires étrangères

Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Conseiller, Ministère des affaires étrangères

Secretary to Mr. Zhang Ping, National People's Congress
Secrétaire de M. Zhang Ping, Assemblée populaire nationale

Director, National People's Congress
Directrice, Assemblée populaire nationale

Deputy Director, National People's Congress
Directeur adjoint, Assemblée populaire nationale

Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Directeur adjoint, Ministère des affaires étrangères

Deputy Director, National People's Congress
Directeur adjoint, Assemblée populaire nationale

Staff, National People's Congress
Secrétariat, Assemblée populaire nationale

Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Secrétariat, Ministère des affaires étrangères

Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Secrétariat, Ministère des affaires étrangères

ZHANG, Yong (Mr./M.)	Security to Mr. Zhang Ping, National People's Congress <i>Sécurité de M. Zhang Ping, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
WANG, Yuyu (Ms./Mme)	Staff, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
ZHANG, Zhujun (Ms./Mme)	Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Secrétariat, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
YANG, Tao (Mr./M.)	Staff, National People's Congress <i>Secrétariat, Assemblée populaire nationale</i>
LUO, Wei (Mr./M.)	Staff, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Secrétariat, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
YE, Fangfang (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Secrétaire, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
LI, Hui (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
WEI, Xing (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

COLOMBIA - COLOMBIE

CORZO, Juan Manuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate
Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice President of the Economic Commission <i>Membre du Sénat (C)</i>
GARCÍA, Teresita (Ms./Mme)	<i>Vice-Président de la Commission économique</i>
(C: Conservative / Parti conservateur)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>

COMOROS - COMORES

CHARIF, Maoulana (Mr./M.)	First Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Union
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Finance Committee <i>Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de l'Union (CRC)</i>
ZALIHATA, Ali (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Union
	Finance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de l'Union (I)</i>
YOUSSOUF, Takiddine (Mr./M.)	Director, Speaker's Office, Assembly of the Union <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président, Assemblée de l'Union</i>
CRC: Convention for the Renewal of the Comoros / Convention pour le renouveau des comores)	
(I: Independant / Indépendant)	

CONGO

KIGNOUMBI KIA MBOUNGOU, Joseph (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président délégué de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
NGOTO, Jeanne Emilie (Ms./Mme)	Second Questor of the Senate <i>Deuxième Questeur du Sénat</i>
SEBA, Sébastien (Mr./M.)	Senator, Legal and Administrative Affairs Committee <i>Sénateur, Commission des affaires juridiques et administratives</i>
GOMA, Léandre (Mr./M.)	Legal Adviser <i>Conseiller juridique</i>
Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	

COSTA RICA

GONZÁLEZ ULLOA, Rolando (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Legislative Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (LN)

(LN: Liberación Nacional)

COTE D'IVOIRE - COTE D'IVOIRE

SORO, Kigbafori Guillaume (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation
LAURETTE ANDREE, Yace De Mel (Ms./Mme)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI/RDA)

SIAKA, Ouattara (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDR)

LATTE, Ahouanzi N'drin Lazare (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
ACA KPO-ADDRA, Alain Bonaventure (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale
Director, Legislative Services, National Assembly
Directeur des services législatifs, Assemblée nationale

FOFANA, Abdoulaye (Mr./M.)
Aide de camp to the Speaker
Aide de camp du Président

National Assembly
Assemblée nationale

TOURE, Moussa (Mr./M.)

Special Adviser, National Assembly
Conseiller spécial, Assemblée nationale

KABLAN, Niambe Honore (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

AHOUSSE, Kouha Severin (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

AHIPO, Legre Guillaume (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(RDR: Rally of Republicans / *Rassemblement des Républicains*)

(PDCI/RDA: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire / *Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire*)

CROATIA – CROATIE

JOSIC, Zeljka (Ms./Mme)
Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Committee on Family, Youth and Sports
Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
Gender Equality Committee
Membre du Parlement de Croatie (HDZ)
Commission de la famille, de la jeunesse et des sports
Commission de la coopération interparlementaire
Commission de l'égalité entre les sexes

BABIC, Vedran (Mr./M.)

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Maritime Affairs,
Transportation and Infrastructure
Physical Planning and Construction Committee
Petitions and Appeals Committee
Head of the Croatia-Russia Parliamentary Friendship
Group
Membre du Parlement de Croatie (SDP)
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires maritimes,
des transports et des infrastructures
Commission de l'aménagement du territoire et de la
construction

CELIC, Ivan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Croatian Parliament
Deputy Chairman of the Health and Social Policy
Committee
European Affairs Committee
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Parlement de Croatie (HDZ)

SADARIC, Hrvoje (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

(HDZ: Croatian Democratic Union / Parti démocratique croate)
(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

Vice-Président de la Commission de la santé et de la politique sociale
Commission des affaires européennes
Commission des affaires étrangères
Adviser, Office for International and European Affairs,
Croatian Parliament
Conseiller au Bureau des affaires internationales et européennes, Parlement de Croatie

CUBA

MARI MACHADO, Ana María (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

BARREDO MEDINA, Lazaro (Mr./M.)

FERRER GÓMEZ, Maria Yolanda (Ms./Mme)

MAZORRA ORTIZ, Jorge Luis (Mr./M.)

ZAYAS BU, Rolando Leon (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

REDONDO RAMOS, Oscar (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(CPC: Communist Party of Cuba / Parti communiste cubain)

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Première Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)
Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
President of the Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)
Présidente de la Commission des affaires étrangères
Member of the National Assembly of the People's Power
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir populaire (CPC)

CYPRUS - CHYPRE

SYLLOURIS, Demetris (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

TORNARITIS, Nicos (Mr./M.)

KOUTRA-KOUKOUMA, Skevi (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

MOUSHOUTTAS, Marinos (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Président de la Chambre des Représentants (AM)

Member of the House of Representatives
Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign and European Affairs
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DISY)
Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères et européennes

Member of the House of Representatives
Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Refugees, Enclaved, Missing, Adversely Affected Persons
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AKEL)
Présidente de la Commission permanente des réfugiés, des personnes enclavées, disparues ou lésées

Member of the House of Representatives
Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Energy, Trade, Industry and Tourism

THEOLOGOU, Anna (Ms./Mme)

Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DIKO)
Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'énergie, du commerce, de l'industrie et du tourisme
 Member of the House of Representatives
 Standing Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CA)
Commission permanente des affaires budgétaires et financières
 Former Member of the House of Representatives
Ancien Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

VARNAVA, George (Mr./M.)

Advisor to the delegation

Conseiller de la délégation

ANASTASSIADOU, Vassiliki (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

CHRISTOU, Avgousta (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

Secretary General, House of Representatives
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
 International Relations Officer A', House of Representatives
Chargée des Relations internationales A', Chambre des Représentants
 International Relations Officer, House of Representatives
Chargée des relations internationales, Chambre des Représentants

PERSIANI, Elena (Ms./Mme)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

ASSOS, Demetris (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(AM: Allilegii (Solidarity) Movement)

(DISY: Democratic Rally / Rassemblement démocratique)

(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People / Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)

(DIKO: Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)

(CA: Citizens' Alliance / Alliance des citoyens)

CZECH REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE

LOBKOWICZ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)

Leader of the delegation

Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
 Committee on Agriculture
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (TOP 09)
Commission de l'agriculture

LÁTKA, Jan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
 Committee on Mandate and Immunity
 Vice-Chair of the Committee on Development, Local Government and Environment
Membre du Sénat (CSSD)
Commission des mandats et des immunités
Vice-Président de la Commission du développement, du gouvernement local et de l'environnement

MALÝ, Jaroslav (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
 Committee on Health and Social Policy
 Vice-Chair of the Committee on Mandate and Immunity
Membre du Sénat (CSSD)
Commission de la santé et de la politique sociale
Vice-Président de la Commission des mandats et des immunités

SARAPATKA, Milan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (Ind)

UKLEIN, Jiří (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

KOŠAŘÍKOVÁ, Kateřina (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

TUČKOVÁ, Alena (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

KUHNL, Karel (Mr./M.)

Ambassador / Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(CSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(TOP 09: Tradition Responsibility Prosperity 09 / Tradition, responsabilité, prospérité 09)

(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE

AN, Tong Chun (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
JONG, Chun Gun (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
Ho, Jong (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
Jo, In Chol (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
HYON, Jong Ung (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM, Hak Song (Mr./M.)	Member of the Supreme People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
PAK MYONG GUK (Mr./M.)	Official, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Fonctionnaire, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
LEE, Kyu Ho (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
KIM, Chol Min (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

KENGO WA DONDO, Léon (Mr./M.) Co President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Co Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat (UFC)</i>
MINAKU NDJALANDJOKO, Aubin (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i>
RAMAZANI BAYA, Raymond (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on External Relations Member of the Senate (MLC) <i>Commission des relations extérieures</i>
MOKENI ATANINGAMU, Jean Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chair, Committee on External Relations <i>Membre du Sénat (PPRD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des relations extérieures</i>
MBUKU LAKA, Boris (Mr./M.) Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Economy, Finance and Budget Control Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ARC)</i> <i>Commission économique et financière et contrôle budgétaire</i>
BOKONA WIIPA, Francois (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairman of the Political, Administrative and Legal Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPRD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission politique, administrative et juridique</i>
MBAMBU MUGHOLE, Juliette (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Political, Administrative and Legal Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCR)</i> <i>Commission politique, administrative et juridique</i>
KIKUDI NDJIBU, Gilbert (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire Général, Sénat</i>
NGUVULU KHOJI, Jean (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire Général, Assemblée nationale</i>

KALALA MAYI MALE, Jean-Claude (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i> BIKI KUVUALA, Guy Odon (Mr./M.)	Director, National Assembly <i>Directeur à l'Assemblée nationale</i> Diplomatic Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseiller diplomatique du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
TABIANA NGANSIA, Denis (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the President of the Senate, Senate <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président du Sénat, Sénat</i>
LIHAU EBUA, Jean Pierre (Mr./M.)	Director, Office of the Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Directeur de Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KETO DIAKANDA, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Office of the President of the Senate <i>Conseiller au Cabinet du Président du Sénat</i>
MUTUMBE MBUYA, Crispin (Mr./M.)	Parliamentary Adviser, National Assembly <i>Conseiller parlementaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
IIZIZAN MBO, Solange (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	
KOPELE, Yanga (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Consultant
MUBINDO KAGOMBA, Faustin (Mr./M.)	
N'KUMAN TAVUN MATUNGUL, Valentin (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
KASONGO MULAMBA SHAKO, Baudouin (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
SALAPAMBA, Gilbert (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
TSHIBASU TSHIMBANGA, Crispin (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

(UFC: Union of Forces of Change / Union des forces du changement)
(PPRD: People's Party for Reconstruction and Democracy / Parti du peuple pour la reconstruction et la démocratie)
(Ind: Independant - Majority / Indépendant - Majorité)
(MLC:: Movement for the Liberation of Congo : / Mouvement de Libération du Congo)
(ARC: Alliance for Congo's Renewal / Alliance pour le renouveau du Congo)
(MCR: Movement for Congo's Renewal / Mouvement Congolais pour le Renouveau)

DENMARK – DANEMARK

HAV, Orla (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Leader of the Delegation <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Danish Parliament Chairman of the Cultural Affairs Committee Vice Chairman of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly <i>Membre du Parlement danois (SDP) Président de la Commission des affaires culturelles Vice-Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire de l'OSCE</i>
CALLESEN, Jan Rytkaer (Mr./M.)	Member of the Danish Parliament / Fiscal Affairs Committee (Climate, Energy and Building Committee Business, Growth and Export Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (DPP) Commission des affaires fiscales Commission du climat, de l'énergie et de la construction Commission des affaires, de la croissance et de l'exportation</i>
BRAMSEN, Trine (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Danish Parliament Legal Affairs Committee / Defence Committee <i>Membre du Parlement danois (SDP) Commission des affaires juridiques Commission de la défense</i>
CHRISTIANSEN, Kim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Danish Parliament Vice Chairman of the Transport Committee Fiscal Affairs Committee

SCHMIDT, Hans Christian (Mr./M.)	<p><i>Membre du Parlement danois (DPP)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des transports</i> <i>Commission des affaires fiscales</i> Member of the Danish Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Cultural Affairs Committee Environment and Food Committee</p> <p><i>Membre du Parlement danois (PL)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des affaires culturelles</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement et de l'alimentation</i></p>
SOENDERGAARD, Soeren (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of the Danish Parliament European Affairs Committee Cultural Affairs Committee</p> <p><i>Membre du Parlement danois (RGA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i> <i>Commission des affaires culturelles</i></p>
LARSEN, Carsten U. (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<p>Secretary General, Danish Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement danois</i></p>
LARSON, Claudius (Mr./M.)	<p>Assistant Secretary, Danish Parliament <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Parlement danois</i></p>
VESTERGAARD, Mette (Ms./Mme)	<p>Secretary, Danish Parliament <i>Secrétaire, Parlement danois</i></p>
<p>(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate) (DPP: Danish People's Party / Parti populaire danois) (PL: Liberal Party / Parti libéral) (RGA: The Red-Green Alliance / Unité-Alliance rouge-verte)</p>	

DJIBOUTI

MOHAMED ALI, Houmed (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	<p>Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (FRUD)</i></p>
ELMI, Deka Ahmed (Ms./Mme)	<p>Member of the National Assembly Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RPP)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i></p>
MOHAMED DAOUD, Ali (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FRUD)</i></p>
SAID GOUMANEH, Hassan (Mr./M.)	<p>Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PSD)</i></p>
MOHAMED AHMED, Idriss (Mr./M.)	<p>Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseiller du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i></p>
<p>(FRUD: Front for Restoration of Unity and Democracy / Front pour la restauration de l'unité et la démocratie) (RPP: People's Rally for Progress / Rassemblement populaire pour le progrès) (PSD: Djibouti Social-Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate de Djibouti)</p>	

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE

SUAREZ DIAZ, Victor (Mr./M.) Advisory Group on Health, Leader of the delegation <i>Groupe consultatif sur la santé, Chef de la délégation</i>	<p>Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies President of the International Affairs Committee Justice Committee Modernization and Reform Committee <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i> <i>Commission de la modernisation et des réformes</i></p>
FERMÍN, Graciela (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and	<p>Member of the Chamber of Deputies Public Ministry Committee</p>

International Security
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix
et de la sécurité internationale*

VICENTE, Juana (Ms./Mme)
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians
Bureau des femmes parlementaires

NUÑEZ GRULLÓN, Alfa Kenia (Ms./Mme)

(PLD: Dominican Liberation Party / Parti de la libération dominicaine)
(PRD: Dominican Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire dominicain)

Justice Committee
Human Rights Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)
Commission du ministère public
Commission de la justice
Comité des droits de la personne
Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Health Committee / Social Security Committee
Defence Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PLD)
*Commission de la santé / Commission de la protection
sociale / Commission de la défense*

Staff / *Secrétariat*

ECUADOR – EQUATEUR

SOLÍZ, Doris (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

CHALA, José (Mr./M.)

BURBANO, Fernando (Mr./M.)

LLORET, Cristóbal (Mr./M.)

MENDOZA, Daniel (Mr./M.)

SINMALEZA, Ángel (Mr./M.)

VILLALVA, Lira (Ms./Mme)

RIVAS, Libia (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

ARMIJOS, Luis (Mr./M.)

ALMEIDA, Elena Del Carmen (Ms./Mme)

CORREA, Sergio (Mr./M.)

VARESE, Luis (Mr./M.)

LARCOS, Jorge (Mr./M.)
Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

NOVOA RAMOS, Julio (Mr./M.)

Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*

PRADO, Julio (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

MUÑOZ, Patricio (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

VALENCIA, Luis Felipe (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

KLIMOVA, Ksenia (Ms./Mme)

Embassy Staff / *Secrétariat de l'Ambassade*

FILIMONOV, Nikita (Mr./M.)

Embassy Staff

Secrétariat de l'Ambassade

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP-PSE)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ACS)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP-UP)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MS)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (AP)

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale

Senior Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller principal, Assemblée nationale

Senior Advisor, National Assembly
Conseillère principale, Assemblée nationale

Senior Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller principal, Assemblée nationale

Senior Advisor, National Assembly
Conseiller principal, Assemblée nationale

(AP: Alianza País)
 (AP-PSE: Alianza País - Partido Socialista Ecuatoriano)
 (ACS: Alianza Creo-Suma)
 (AP-UP: Alianza País - Unidad Primero)
 (MS: Movimiento Suma)

EGYPT - EGYPTE

ABDEL AAL, Aly (Mr./M.) Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
DARWISH, Karim (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AZER, Margret (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABOUTALEB, Yasmini (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ELWANI, Rania (Ms./Mme) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
RADWAN, Tarek (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
NOSSEIR, Nancy (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
TALAAAT MOSTAFA, Sahar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Head of the tourism and civil aviation committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants / Présidente de la Commission du tourisme et de l'aviation civile</i>
SAAD ELDIN, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe</i> <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABDEL WAHAB, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Counsellor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HEKAL, Mohamed Khaled (Mr./M.)	Head of the Protocol Department, House of Representatives <i>Chef du Département du protocole, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KAMEL, Mahmoud (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of Representatives <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NAGY, Alaa Eldin (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief of Staff Presidency, House of Representatives <i>Directeur du Cabinet de la Présidence, Chambre des Représentants</i>
OMAR, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
ELBADRI, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
RAGAB, Mohamed Rafaat (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
EL SHARKAWY, Shady (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
SOLIMAN, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
LASHIN, Sameh (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

EL NAFADY, Mahmoud (Mr./M.)
Press / Presse

EL SALVADOR

GALLEGOS, Guillermo (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
President of the Political Committee
Treasury and Special Budget Committee
Legislation and Electoral Reform Committee
Président de l'Assemblée législative (GANNA)
Président de la Commission politique
Commission du trésor et des budgets spéciaux
Commission de la législation et des réformes électorales

FLORES, Santiago (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Work and Social Security Committee
Political Committee
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)
Commission du travail et de la protection sociale
Commission politique

MERINO, Francisco (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Treasury and Special Budget Committee
Environment and Climate Change Committee
Economy Committee
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative (CN)
Commission du trésor et des budgets spéciaux
Commission de l'environnement et du changement climatique / Commission de l'économie

SOSA, Karina Ivette (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

Member of the Legislative Assembly
President of the International Relations, Central
American Integration and Salvadorians Abroad
Family, Youth, Elderly and People with Disabilities
Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)
Présidente de la Commission des relations
internationales, de l'intégration de l'Amérique centrale et
des Salvadoriens à l'étranger
Commission de la famille, de la jeunesse, des aînés et
des personnes handicapées

TENORIO, Mario Alberto (Mr./M.)

Member of the Legislative Assembly, President of the
Legislation and Electoral Reforms Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée législative (GANNA)
Président de la Commission de la législation et des
réformes électorales

ORELLANA, Noel (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

Legislative Operations Manager, Legislative Assembly
Directeur des opérations législatives, Assemblée
législative

ROSALES, Iván (Mr./M.)

Chief of the International Relations Unit, Legislative
Assembly
Chef du Service des relations internationales,
Assemblée législative

SALMAN, Juan (Mr./M.)

Assistant, Legislative Assembly
Assistant, Assemblée législative

GONZALEZ, Blanca (Ms./Mme)

Assistant, Legislative Assembly
Assistante, Assemblée législative

RODRIGUEZ, Carlos (Mr./M.)

Assistant, Legislative Assembly
Assistant, Assemblée législative

SANTACRUZ, Yuri (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

CHAPLIGUIN, Vladimir (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

DEMIDOVA, Daria (Ms./Mme)
Embassy Staff / *Secrétariat de l'Ambassade*

(GANA: Grand Alliance for National Unity / Grande alliance pour l'unité nationale)
(FMLN: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front / Front de libération nationale Farabundo Marti)
(CN: National Conciliation Party / Parti de conciliation nationale)

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - GUINEE EQUATORIALE

EFUA ASANGONO, Teresa (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate Chair, Finance, Economy, Trade and Public Investment Committee <i>Présidente du Sénat (PDGE)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des finances, de l'économie, du commerce et des investissements publics</i>
MOHABA MESSU, Gaudencio (Mr./M.) Co-Leader of the delegation <i>Co-Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Chair, Finance, Economy, Trade and Public Investment Committee <i>Président de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des finances, de l'économie, du commerce et des investissements publics</i>
NTUGU NSA, Atanasio Ela (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Vice-Chair, Communication, Infrastructures and Transportation Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PDGE)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des communications, des infrastructures et des transports</i>
NGUEMA NCHAMA, Antonio Javier (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Health and Social Welfare Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PDGE)</i> <i>Commission de la santé et de la protection sociale</i>
OBONO EDJANG, Silvia Paloma (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate External Policy Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PDGE)</i> <i>Commission de la politique extérieure</i>
ONDO NZE MADJA, Juan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDGE)</i>
EKUA ABE, Bienvenido Esono (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés</i>
OBIANG MAYE, Victorino Nka (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
ELA OÑANA, Jose (Mr./M.)	Protocol General Director, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur général de protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>
MESIE BICO, Javier (Mr./M.)	Protocol General Director, Senate <i>Directeur général de protocole, Sénat</i>
MBO NCHAMA, Ambrosio Engonga (Mr./M.)	Press Director General, Senate <i>Directeur général de la presse, Sénat</i>
NVE NFA, Mariano (Mr./M.)	Press Director General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur général de la presse, Chambre des Députés</i>
OWONO EFUA, Perla Divina (Ms./Mme)	Cabinet Director, Senate <i>Directrice de cabinet, Sénat</i>
NVE MBA, Jose Maria (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
NSUE NSUE, Simon (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

(PDGE: Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea / Parti Démocratique de Guinée Equatoriale)

ETHIOPIA – ETHIOPIE

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>
MELES, Freweini (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération</i>
GONDA, Hailu (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the Federation <i>Membre de la Chambre de la Fédération (EPRDF)</i>
DESTA, Emeya (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Women, Youth and Children's Affairs <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple Présidente de la Commission permanente des questions relatives aux femmes, aux jeunes et aux enfants</i>
FARA, Petros (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants du Peuple (EPRDF)</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>
GEBRE, Negus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Peoples' Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants du Peuple</i>
GEBREMICHAEL, Kassa (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front / Front populaire démocratique révolutionnaire de l'Ethiopie)

FIJI – FIDJI

LUVENI, Jiko (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament Chairperson of the Business Committee Chairperson of the House Committee Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee <i>Présidente du Parlement (FF) Présidente du Comité directeur Présidente du Comité de la Chambre Présidente de la Commission du règlement</i>
LEAWERE, Mikaele (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Justice and Law Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Sodelpa) Commission de la justice et des lois</i>
RADRODRO, Salote (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Social Affairs Standing Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (Sodelpa) Commission permanente des affaires sociales</i>
USAMATE, Jone (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
EMBERSON, Jeanette (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General to Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint du Parlement</i>
JONES, Dyfan Rhys (Mr./M.)	Consultant, Parliament / <i>Consultant, Parlement</i>
KATONIVUALIKU, Miriama Lois (Ms./Mme)	Manager Executive Support Unit, Parliament <i>Directrice du soutien administratif, Parlement</i>

(FF: Fiji First / Les Fidji d'abord)

(Sodelpa: Social Democratic Liberal Party / Parti libéral social-démocrate)

FINLAND – FINLANDE

LOHELA, Maria (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Présidente du Parlement</i>
URPILAINEN, Jutta (Ms./Mme) President of the Group <i>Présidente du Groupe</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i>
ELO, Simon (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (S)</i>
VIROLAINEN, Anne-Mari (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (KOK)</i>
ADLERCREUTZ, Anders (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (SFP)</i>
PUSKA, Pekka (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (KESK)</i>
PAAVOLA, Maija-Leena (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale du Parlement</i>
KUUSINEN, Katriina (Ms./Mme) Adviser to the Speaker <i>Conseillère de la Présidente</i>	Head of the International Affairs, Parliament <i>Chef des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
KAMRAS, Laura (Ms./Mme) Special Adviser to the Speaker <i>Conseillère spéciale de la Présidente</i>	Counsellor for International Affairs, Parliament <i>Conseillère aux affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
VUOSIO, Teemu (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Secretary, International Affairs, Parliament <i>Secrétaire, Département des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
HUTTUNEN, Marja (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the Group <i>Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe</i>	Assistant, International Affairs, Parliament <i>Assistante, Département des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>
LAAKSONEN, Mika (Mr./M.)	Secretary, International Affairs, Parliament <i>Secrétaire, Département des affaires internationales, Parlement</i>

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(S: Blue Reform / Réforme bleue)

(SFP: Swedish People's Party / Parti populaire suédois)

(KESK: Centre Party / Parti du Centre)

(KOK: National Coalition Party / Coalition nationale)

FRANCE

ERRANTE, Sophie (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chair of the Economic Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (REM)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires économiques</i>
DEROMEDI, Jacky (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate / Law Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (R)</i> <i>Commission des lois</i>
JOURDA, Gisèle (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces <i>Membre du Sénat (PS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et des forces armées</i>
MARIE, Didier (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / Law Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (PS) / Membre de la Commission des lois</i>
DEL PICCHIA, Robert (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Finance	Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces

Membre du Comité exécutif, Président du sous-comité des finances

DUMONT, Laurence (Ms./Mme)
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians
membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires

JULIEN-LAFERRIERE, Hubert (Mr./M.)

LARIVE, Michel (Mr./M.)

PALLEZ, Christophe (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

SCHROEDT-GIRARD, Jean-Louis (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

EIFERMANN, Didier (Mr./M.)
Executive Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

VANCE, Loïc (Mr./M.)
Executive Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe

FAUCONNIER, Inès (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the ASGP / *Secrétaire de l'ASGP*

VELASCO, Karine (Ms./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP
Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

PREUVOT, Perrine (Ms./Mme)
Administrative Secretary of the ASGP
Secrétaire administrative de l'ASGP

DE CHAVAGNAC, Hughes (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(REM: The Republic on the Move / La République en Marche)
(R: The Republicans / Les Républicains)
(PS: Socialist / Socialiste)
(FI: La France insoumise)

ONOUVIET, Richard Auguste (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

MOULENGUI MOUELE, Sophie (Ms./Mme)

ONDO METHOGO, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)

BIE EYENE, Paul (Mr./M.)

Membre du Sénat (R)
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
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale REM
Commission des affaires étrangères

Member of the National Assembly
Cultural Affairs and Education Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FI)
Commission des affaires culturelles et de l'éducation

Secretary general of the Questure, National Assembly
Secrétaire général de la Questure, Assemblée nationale

Secretary General of the Presidency, Senate
Secrétaire général de la Présidence, Sénat

Adviser, National Assembly
Conseiller, Assemblée nationale

Adviser, National Assembly
Conseiller, Assemblée nationale

Administrator, National Assembly
Administrateur, Assemblée nationale

Adviser, National Assembly
Conseillère, Assemblée nationale

Services Administrator, National Assembly
Administratrice des services, Assemblée nationale

GABON

Speaker of the National Assembly
Law and Administrative Affairs Committee
Finance and Budget Committee
Foreign Affairs Committee
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)
Membre de la Commission des lois et affaires administratives
Commission des finances et du budget
Commission affaires étrangères

Member of the Senate
Committee on Finance, Human Rights and Social Affairs
Membre du Sénat (PDG)
Commission des finances, des droits de l'homme et des affaires sociales

Member of the Senate / Finance Committee
Membre du Sénat (PDG) / Commission des finances

Member of the National Assembly
Law and Administrative Affairs Committee

NZE MOUENIDIAMBOU, Josephine (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Finance and Budget Committee Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Membre de la Commission des lois et affaires administratives</i> <i>Commission des finances et du budget</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> Member of the National Assembly Committee on Finance, Law, Social Affairs and Sustainable Development <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales et du développement durable</i>
OSSELE NDONG, Remy (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 Committee on Finance, Law, Social Affairs and Sustainable Development <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDG)</i> <i>Commission des finances, des lois, des affaires sociales et du développement durable</i>
SOUMOUNA, Edmond (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
IMBOUMBA, Carmelia (Ms./Mme)	Adviser to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseillère du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
ROSSANTANGA, Lygie (Ms./Mme)	Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Senate <i>Directrice des relations interparlementaires, Sénat</i>
RAOUMBE, Roger Bertin (Mr./M.) Private GP to the Speaker <i>Médecin personnel du Président</i>	National Assembly <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
PONCY, Thierry Lionel (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp du Président</i>	
(PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais)	

GERMANY – ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the German Bundestag <i>Président, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)</i>
ERNSTBERGER, Petra (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Deputy Leader of the delegation <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Chef adjointe de la délégation</i>	Member of the German Bundestag <i>Membre, Bundestag allemand (SPD)</i>
ROTH, Claudia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the German Bundestag Spokeswoman of the Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development <i>Vice-Présidente, Bundestag allemand (Bündnis90/Die Grünen)</i> <i>Porte-parole, 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.) Vice-President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians	Member of the German Bundestag Chairman of the Subcommittee on Cultural and Education Policy Abroad Committee on Foreign Affairs

Vice-Président du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires

Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid
Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)
Président, Sous-Commission de la culture et de l'éducation à l'étranger
Commission des affaires étrangères
Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'aide humanitaire

UHL, Hans-Peter (Mr./M.)

Member of the German Bundestag
Committee on Foreign Affairs
Subcommittee on Civilian Crisis Prevention and Integrated Conflict Management
Spokesman of the Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
Membre, Bundestag allemand (CDU/CSU)
Commission des affaires étrangères
Sous-Commission de la prévention des crises civiles, et du règlement intégré des conflits

FREITAG, Dagmar (Ms./Mme)

Porte-parole, Sous-Commission du désarmement, de la maîtrise des armements et de la non-prolifération
Member of the German Bundestag
Chairperson of the Sports Committee
Committee on Foreign Affairs
NATO Parliamentary Assembly
Membre, Bundestag allemand (SPD)
Présidente de la Commission des sports
Commission des affaires étrangères
Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN

HÖHN, Bärbel (Ms./Mme)

Member of the German Bundestag
Chairperson of the Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
Membre, Bundestag allemand (Bündnis90/Die Grünen)
Présidente de la Commission de l'environnement, de la protection de la nature, du bâtiment et de la sûreté nucléaire

RISSE, Horst (Mr./M.)

Secretary General, German Bundestag

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secrétaire général, Bundestag allemand

SCHÖLER, Ulrich (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General, German Bundestag

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secrétaire général adjoint, Bundestag allemand

KLEEMANN, Georg (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General, Federal Council

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secrétaire général adjoint, Conseil fédéral

MÜLLER, Lorenz (Mr./M.)

Head of the Speaker's Office, German Bundestag

LEUENBERGER, Saskia (Ms./Mme)

Chef du Bureau du Président, Bundestag allemand

Head of Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag

Chef de la Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

TEPASSE, Nicole (Ms./Mme)

Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag

Secretary to the delegation

Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

Secrétaire de la délégation

BRAMMER, Claudia (Ms./Mme)

Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies, German Bundestag

Assistant to the delegation

Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

Assistante de la délégation

BEATRICE, Gelsomina (Ms./Mme)

Division of International Parliamentary Assemblies , German Bundestag

Assistant to the delegation

Division des Assemblées parlementaires internationales, Bundestag allemand

Assistante de la délégation

MAHDJOUBI, Ali (Mr./M.)

Office of the Deputy Speaker, German Bundestag
Bureau de la Vice-Présidente, Bundestag allemand

WENZEL, Mira (Ms./Mme)

Office of Ms. Höhn , German Bundestag
Bureau de Mme Höhn, Bundestag allemand

ADERHOLD, Eltje (Ms./Mme)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

MÜLLER-BERNER, Kai (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

GIESE, Corinna (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

ZIERPKA , Dirk (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(CDU/CSU: Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne démocrate/Union chrétienne sociale)

(Bündnis90/Die Grünen: Green Party / Les Verts)

(SPD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

GHANA

OQUAYE, Micheal Aaron (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Speaker of Parliament

Chairperson of the Standing Order Committee and

Committee on Selection

*Président du Parlement (NPP)**Président de la Commission du règlement et du Comité de sélection*

IBRAHIM, Ahmed (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / Business Committee

Special Budget Committee

*Membre du Parlement (NDC) / Comité directeur**Commission des budgets spéciaux*

ADU GYAMFI, Mercy (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament

House Committee

Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises

*Membre du Parlement (NPP)**Commission des travaux de la Chambre**Commission de l'emploi, de la protection sociale et des entreprises d'Etat*

IDDRISU, Haruna (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament

Minority Leader of the the House Committee

Business Committee / Special Budget Committee

*Membre du Parlement (NDC)**Chef de la minorité de la Commission des travaux de la Chambre / Comité directeur**Commission des budgets spéciaux*

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament, Minority Leader

Business Committee

*Membre du Parlement (NPP), Chef de la minorité**Comité directeur*

NYINDAM, Matthew (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament / Finance Committee

Business Committee

Membre du Parlement (NPP) / Commission des finances
Comité directeur

SAFO, Sarah (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / Deputy Majority Leader

Business Committee / Appointment Committee

*Membre du Parlement (NPP) / Chef adjoint de la**majorité / Comité directeur / Commission des nominations*

EYIAH QUANSAH, Naana (Ms./Mme.)

Member of Parliament / *Membre du Parlement*

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
GOMBILLA, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)

Clerk to Parliament, Parliament
Secrétaire général, Parlement
Deputy Clerk to Parliament (Committees, Parliamentary
Relations and ICT)
*Secrétaire général adjoint du Parlement (Commissions,
relations interparlementaires et TIC)*

AMARTEY, Lydia (Ms./Mme)
Diplomat / *Diplomat*
EVONLAH, Moses (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomat*
ANANE-DOMFE, Michael (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomat*

(NPP: New Patriotic Party / Nouveau parti patriotique)
(NDC: National Democratic Congress / Congrès démocratique national)

GREECE – GRECE

TRIANTAFYLLOU, Maria (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs
Committee on European Affairs
Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)
*Commission permanente de la défense nationale et
des affaires étrangères*
Commission des affaires européennes

PANTZAS, Georgios (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational
Affairs
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs
Membre du Parlement hellénique (SYRIZA)
*Commission permanente des affaires culturelles et de
l'éducation*
*Commission permanente de la défense nationale et
des affaires étrangères*

KEFALOGIANNI, Olga (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on Cultural and Educational
Affairs
Permanent Committee on Institutions and
Transparency
Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)
*Commission permanente des affaires culturelles et de
l'éducation*
*Commission permanente des institutions et de la
transparence*

KARAOGLOU, Theodoros (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on Social Affairs
Membre du Parlement hellénique (ND)
Commission permanente des affaires sociales

KAMMENOS, Dimitrios (Mr./M.)

Member of the Hellenic Parliament
Standing Committee on National Defence and Foreign
Affairs
Standing Committee on Production and Trade
Membre du Parlement hellénique (AnEi)
*Commission permanente de la défense nationale et
des affaires étrangères*
*Commission permanente de la production et du
commerce*

ATHANASSIOU, Konstantinos (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Hellenic Parliament
Secrétaire général du Parlement hellénique

KARTSAKLI, Aikaterini (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

Head of the B' Section of International Organizations,
Hellenic Parliament
*Chef de la Section B' des organisations internationales,
Parlement hellénique*

TSOUNI, Foteini (Ms./Mme)

Secretary, Hellenic Parliament
Secrétaire, Parlement hellénique

(SYRIZA: Coalition of the Radical Left / Coalition de la gauche radicale)

(ND: New Democracy / Nouvelle démocratie)

(AnEI: Independent Greeks / Parti des Grecs indépendants)

GUATEMALA

ESPAÑA, Boris (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic
Vice-Président, Congrès de la République (MF)

LUCERO, Jaime (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the Congress of the Republic
Secretary of the Board of Directors
*Vice-Président, Congrès de la République (UCN)
Secrétaire du Comité de direction*

QUINTO, Maria Cristina (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Congress of the Republic
Membre, Congrès de la République (FCN)

(MF: Movimiento Reformador)

(UCN: Unión del Cambio Nacional)

(FCN: FCN-Nación)

GUINEA – GUINEE

KONDIANO, Claude Kory (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPG)

SOW, Mamadou Diouldé (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Foreign Affairs
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDG)
Commission des affaires étrangères*

SAGNO, Jean Edouard (Mr./M.)

Cabinet Director
Directeur de cabinet

Secretary of the Group

Secrétaire du Groupe

MOUSSATEMBEDOUNOU, Séraphin (Mr./M.)

Aide de camp

GIRDIN, Sergey (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(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

CASSAMÁ, Cipriano (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the People's National Assembly
Committee on Law and Democracy
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)
Commission du droit et de la démocratie*

CASSAMÁ, Almame (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Committee on Economic Law and Development
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGC)
Commission du droit économique et du développement*

DJALÓ, Mamadu Sello (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's National Assembly
Political Committee
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)
Commission politique*

MANÉ, Braima (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly Political Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)</i> <i>Commission politique</i>
SUCUMA, José António (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PRS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires économiques</i>
INDEQUI, Matilde (Ms./Mme)	Member of the People's National Assembly Women's Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale populaire (PAIGV)</i> <i>Commission de la femme</i>
SANCA NDOE, Teresa (Ms./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>
RODRIGUES DA FONSECA, José Carlós (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, People's National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale populaire</i>
SANHÁ, Ansumane (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif</i>	Director, President's Executive Office, People's National Assembly <i>Directeur, Cabinet du Président, 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)

GUYANA

SCOTLAND, Barton (Mr./M.) President, Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Chairman of the Parliamentary Management Committee <i>Président du Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la gestion parlementaire</i>
NAGAMOOTOO, Moses (Mr./M.)	First Vice-President and Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana Parliamentary Management Committee <i>Premier Vice-Président et Premier Ministre de la République coopérative du Guyana (PNU)</i> <i>Commission de la gestion parlementaire</i>
RAMSARRAN, Bheri (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana <i>Membre du Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana (PPP)</i>
ISAACS, Sherlock (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk of the National Assembly, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale, Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana</i>
BACCHUS, Jocette (Ms./Mme) Assistant Secretary	Clerk of Committees, Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana <i>Greffière des commissions, Parlement de la République coopérative du Guyana</i>
DIAL, Munesh (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	

(PNU: A Partnership for National Unity / Partenariat pour l'unité nationale)
(PPP: People's Progressive Party/Civic / Parti progressiste/civique)

HAITI

LAMBERT, Joseph (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
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JACINTHE, Sorel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
CADEAU, Denis (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
CANTAVE, Carl Murat (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
GILOT, Jean Rony (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
DESIR, Isabelle (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
HUNGARY – HONGRIE	
KÖVÉR, László (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)</i>
LATORCAI, János (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (KDNP)</i>
BALLA, Mihály (Mr./M.) President of the Group <i>Président du Groupe</i>	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
BARTOS, Mónika (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee for Sustainable Development <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FIDESz)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission du développement durable</i>
JÓZSA, István (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee for European Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSZP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires européennes</i>
SCHMUCK, Erzsébet (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budget <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LMP)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission du budget</i>
GYÖNGYÖSI, Márton (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Jobbik)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
CSUTORA, Zsolt (Mr./M.)	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade <i>Secrétaire d'Etat adjoint, Ministère des affaires étrangères et du commerce</i>
SUCH, György (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
BELLAVICS, István (Mr./M.)	Director, Cultural Affairs, National Assembly <i>Directeur des affaires culturelles, Assemblée nationale</i>
SOMFAINÉ ÁDÁM, Katalin (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of IPU Office, Directorate for Foreign Relations, National Assembly <i>Chef du Bureau de l'UIP, Direction des relations étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
KOHÁRI, Lajos (Mr./M.)	Advisor of the Directorate for Foreign Relations, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Direction des relations étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>

TÓTH, László (Mr./M.)	Head of Security, National Assembly <i>Chef de la sécurité, Assemblée nationale</i>
SÁRDI, Péter (Mr./M.)	Director for Foreign Relations, National Assembly <i>Directeur des relations étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
SZILÁGYI, Zoltán (Mr./M.)	Head of Press Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département de la presse, Assemblée nationale</i>
VERESS, László (Mr./M.)	Chief of Speaker's Cabinet, National Assembly <i>Chef du Cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
KÓRÓDI, Erika (Ms./Mme)	
Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
BALLA, János (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
NAGY GÁBOR, Ferenc (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
MÁRKUS, Ildikó (Ms./Mme)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(FIDESz: Hungarian Civic Union / Union civique hongroise)	
(KDNP: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti chrétien-démocrate du peuple)	
(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

JÓNSDÓTTIR, Birgitta (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament
Vice-Chair of the Group, Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Chair of the Constitutional and Supervisory Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (P) Vice-Présidente de la Commission constitutionnelle de surveillance</i>
BERNÓDUSSON, Helgi (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Parliament
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
BANG, Arna Gerður (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Parliament
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	<i>Conseillère, Parlement</i>
(P: Pirate Party / Parti pirate)	

INDIA – INDE

MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Ms./Mme)	Speaker of the House of the People <i>Présidente de la Chambre du peuple</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
PATIL, Basawaraj (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (BJP)</i>
DESAI, Anil Yeshwant (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (SS)</i>
PUSHPA, Sasikala (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats</i>
SINGH, Nagendra (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</i>
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>	
KAMBHAMPATI, Hari Babu (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (BJP)</i>
DEV, Sushmita (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple (INC)</i>

KHADSE, Raksha Nikhil (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du peuple</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>
VERMA, Desh Deepak (Mr./M.) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Council of States <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil des Etats</i>
KAUSHIK, Atul (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Additional Secretary, House of the People <i>Secrétaire supplémentaire, Chambre du peuple</i>
TATED, Sunil (Mr./M.)	Principal Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire principal de la Présidente, Chambre du peuple</i>
KANDPAL, Y.M. (Mr./M.)	Director, House of the People <i>Directeur, Chambre du peuple</i>
MUNSHI, Ajay Kumar (Mr./M.)	Director, House of the People <i>Directeur, Chambre du peuple</i>
JASON, S. (Mr./M.)	Director, Council of States <i>Directeur, Conseil des Etats</i>
KUMAR, Krishendra (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, House of the People <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Chambre du peuple</i>
KUMAR, Amit (Mr./M.)	Deputy Secretary, Council of States <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Conseil des Etats</i>
KASHYAP, Harish (Mr./M.)	Additional Private Secretary to the Speaker, House of the People <i>Secrétaire particulier supplémentaire de la Présidente, Chambre du peuple</i>
ROY, Rashmi (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer, House of the People <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre du peuple</i>
SINGH, Yogendra (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, House of the People <i>Chargé du protocole, Chambre du peuple</i>
MISHRA, Vijay (Mr./M.)	Liaison Officer, House of the People <i>Attaché de liaison, Chambre du peuple</i>
KUMAR, Naresh (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
VERMA, Arvind Kumar (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
SHARMA, Arun Kumar (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
RANJAN, Rajeev (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
KUMAR, Manish (Mr./M.) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
(SS: Shiv Sena)	
(BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party / Parti Bharatiya Janata)	
(INC: Indian National Congress / Parti du Congrès national indien)	
(BJD: Biju Janta Dal)	

INDONESIA – INDONESIE

ZON, Fadli (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chair of the GOPAC <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (Gerindra) / Président de GOPAC</i>
ASSEGAF, Nurhayati (Ms./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Chair of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation

	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
ANGGRAINI, Amelia (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NDP)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
ALZIER, Dwie Aroem Hadiatie (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
MUNAWAR, Rofi (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the House of Representatives Vice chairman of the Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)</i> <i>Vice-président de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
SOEHARTO, Siti Hediati (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives / Vice Chairperson of the Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (Golkar)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
SARUNDAJANG, Vanda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
NURSANTY, Evita (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the House of Representatives / Committee for Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation/Committee I <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire/Commission I</i>
JUWAINI, Jazuli (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Committee for Interparliamentary Cooperation <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKS)</i> <i>Commission de la coopération interparlementaire</i>
HARRIS, Damayanti (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ILYAS, Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
HARDJONO, Sartomo (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of Division, House of Representatives <i>Chef de division, Chambre des Représentants</i>
DJAZULI, Mohammad (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of Division, House of Representatives <i>Chef de division, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ANDIKA, Muhammad Tri (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WINARKO, Djaka Dwi (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives <i>Chef de bureau, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MARIANA, Anissa (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WIDIANI, Miranti (Ms./Mme)	Staff, House of Representatives <i>Secrétariat, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms./Mme) GOPAC Executive Director	Head of Bureau, House of Representatives <i>Chef de bureau, Chambre des Représentants</i>
PUJIYANTI, Adirini (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Researcher, House of Representatives <i>Chercheuse, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MULYONO, Pauline Theresa (Ms./Mme)	Interpreter, House of Representatives <i>Interprète, Chambre des Représentants</i>

PRIMAYUDA, Rachmanda (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALFIAH, Warsiti (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser, House of Representatives <i>Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants</i>
BUSTAMI, Fauzi (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
PONOMARENKO, Vasilievna Lubov (Ms./Mme) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
MAULANA, Taufiq (Mr./M.) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
SIMBOLON, Lasro (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
(Gerindra: Great Indonesia Movement Party / Mouvement pour une grande Indonésie) (Golkar: Party of Functional Groups / Parti des groupes fonctionnels) (NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique) (PKS: Prosperous Justice Party / Parti de la justice et de la prospérité) (PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle / Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)	

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) - IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

ARDESHIR LARIJANI, Ali (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Président du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
KAVAKEBIAN, Mostafa (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
JALALI, Kazem (Mr./M.) Member of the Executive Committee <i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
ABBASI, Asadollah (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
BETKOLIA, Yonathan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
ESMAEILI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
FARSHADAN, Seyed Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
HOSSEINI, Seyedeh Fatemeh (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
KARAMPOUR, Kourosch (Mr./M.) Advisor / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Membre du Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
AFRASHTEH, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
JAFARI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
AMIRABDOLLAHIAN, Hossein (Mr./M.)	Special Assistant to the Speaker for International affairs, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Assistant particulier du Président pour les affaires internationales, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
DASTGHEIB, Ahmadreza (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Conseiller du Président, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
YASREBI, Seyed Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Director General of Protocol Department, Islamic Parliament of Iran <i>Directeur général du Département du protocole, Parlement islamique d'Iran</i>
GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
ABOULHASSANI CHIMEH, Jalal (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AHMADI, Babak (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AFKHAMI, Emad (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer / <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

TORKASHVAND, Zahra (Ms./Mme)
Senior Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire principale du Groupe
SAMADI, Reza (Mr./M.)
NOURI SARI, Hassan (Mr./M.)
Doctor / *Médecin*
KHOZANI, Hassan (Mr./M.)
SAHRAEI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.)

YOUSEFI, Ali Reza (Mr./M.)

REZAEI ZIARANI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
ABDULLAHY, Adel (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
OMIDIAN, Alireza (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
ZABOLI, Mohammad (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
FAR TOUSI, Masoud (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
SANA EI, Mehdi (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

AL-GBURI, Saleem (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the
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*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la
démocratie et des droits de l'homme,
Chef de la délégation*
AL-MUSAWI, Sameerah (Ms./Mme)

ALASADI, Dhiaa (Mr./M.)

ALRIKABI, Sadiq (Mr./M.)

ALGBURI, Mohammed (Mr./M.)

KENNA, Yanadam (Mr./M.)

ALZANGANAH, Salahuddin (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
AKSO, Aiden (Mr./M.)

Senior Expert, Islamic Parliament of Iran
Experte principale, Parlement islamique d'Iran

Staff / *Secrétariat*

Staff / *Secrétariat*

Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran
Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran
Advisor, Islamic Parliament of Iran
Conseiller, Parlement islamique d'Iran

IRAQ

Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
Président du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (IPA)

Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
International Relations Committee
*Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (NA)
Commission des relations internationales*

Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
International Relations Committee
*Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (NA)
Commission des relations internationales*

Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
International Relations Committee
*Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (NA)
Commission des relations internationales*

Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
International Relations Committee
*Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (IPA)
Commission des relations internationales*

Member of the Council of Representatives of Iraq
Labour and Social Affairs Committee
*Membre du Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq (NA)
Commission des affaires sociales et du travail*

Secretary General
Secrétaire général
Adviser / *Conseiller*

AL-OGAILI, Salam (Mr./M.)	Director General of Public Relations and Protocol, Council of Representatives of Iraq <i>Directeur général des relations publiques et du protocole, Conseil des représentants de l'Iraq</i>
ANBORI, Abbas (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
ALKHATTAB, Mohanad (Mr./M.)	Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>
BASHER, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Secretary / <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
ALJOBORI, Mahdi (Mr./M.)	Speaker's Secretary / <i>Secrétaire du Président</i>
ALBUMUSTAFA, Waleed (Mr./M.)	
Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
AL-SUMAIDAE, Nadheer (Mr./M.)	
Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
Z AidAN, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Press</i>	
ALJANABI, Noori (Mr./M.)	
Press / <i>Press</i>	
(IPA: Iraqi Powers Alliance / Alliance des pouvoirs irakiens)	
(NA: The National Alliance / Alliance nationale)	

IRELAND – IRLANDE

Ó FEARGHÁIL, Seán (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants (FF)</i>
Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
CONWAY, Martin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Joint Committee on Justice and Equality <i>Membre du Sénat (FG)</i> <i>Comité mixte de la justice et de l'égalité</i>
Ó DONNGHAILE, Niall (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Good Friday Agreement <i>Membre du Sénat (SF)</i> <i>Accord du vendredi saint</i>
BURTON, Joan (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives Joint Committee on Education and Skills <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (L)</i> <i>Comité mixte de l'éducation et des compétences</i>
HORKAN, Gerald (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Vice Chairman of the Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach <i>Membre du Sénat (FF)</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des finances, des dépenses publiques, des réformes et du Taoiseach</i>
FINNEGAN, Peter (Mr./M.)	Secretary General and Clerk of Dáil Éireann, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HAMILTON, John (Mr./M.)	Head of Inter-Parliamentary Relations House of Representatives <i>Chef des relations interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants</i>
PRUNTY, Brian (Mr./M.)	Private Secretary to Speaker, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président, Chambre des Représentants</i>
(FF: Fianna Fáil)	
(FG: Fine Gael)	
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)	
(: Sinn Féin)	

ISRAEL

SHAI, Nachman (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament
President of the Group, Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation	Chair of the Subcommittee for National Planning Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

Président du Groupe, Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation

Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality
Membre du Parlement (Z)

Président de la Sous-Commission de la planification nationale

Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense
Commission de la condition de la femme et de l'égalité des sexes

HASKEL, Sharren (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament
Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee
Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse
Special Committee for Public Petitions
Membre du Parlement (L)
Commission des affaires étrangères et de la défense
Commission spéciale sur la toxicomanie et l'alcoolisme
Commission spéciale des pétitions publiques

JELIN, Haim (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Education, Culture, and Sports Committee
Science and Technology Committee
Membre du Parlement (YA)
Commission de l'éducation, de la culture et du sport
Commission de la science et de la technologie

YONAH, Yossi (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Economic Affairs Committee
Education, Culture, and Sports Committee
Special Committee for Distributive Justice and Social Equality
Membre du Parlement (Z)
Commission des affaires économiques
Commission de l'éducation, de la culture et du sport
Commission spéciale de la justice de répartition et de l'égalité sociale

MARGALIT, Liat (Ms./Mme)

International Affairs Coordinator, Parliament
Coordinatrice des affaires internationales, Parlement

Advisor to the delegation / *Conseillère de la délégation*

SLOV, Olga (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

GOLDMAN-SHAYMAN, Alex (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(Z: Zionist Camp / Union sioniste)

(L: Likud)

(YA: Yesh Atid)

ITALY - ITALIE

LOCATELLI, Pia Elda (Ms./Mme)

Advisory Group on Health, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation
Groupe consultatif sur la santé, Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PSI)
Commission des affaires étrangères

FARINA, Gianni (Mr./M.)

Committee on Middle East Questions
Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PD)
Commission des affaires étrangères

AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Foreign Affairs Committee
Membre du Sénat (AL-A)
Commission des affaires étrangères

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Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

RADONI, Susanna (Ms./Mme)

Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général adjoint, Sénat
Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies
Chargée du protocole, Chambre des Députés

SORBELLO, Sandro (Mr./M.)

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Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
FABI, Catia (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*LASORSA, Antonella (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr./M.)
Interpreter / *Interprète*
BENCINI, Leonardo (Mr./M.)
Consul General / *Consul général*

(PSI: Italian Socialist Party / Parti socialiste italien)

(PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)

(AL-A: Alleanza Liberalpopolare-Autonomie)

Protocol Officer, Chamber of Deputies
Chargé du protocole, Chambre des Députés
Senior Parliamentary Official, Senate
Fonctionnaire parlementaire principal, Sénat
Adviser to the Secretary General, Chamber of Deputies
Conseillère du Secrétaire général, Chambre des Députés
Chamber of Deputies
Chambre des Députés
Senate
*Sénat***JAPAN – JAPON**SONODA, Shuko (Mr./M.)
Acting Member of Executive Committee, Leader of the
delegation*Membre du Comité exécutif p.i., Chef de la délégation*MATSUSHITA, Kazufumi (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*TOGAWA, Hiroyuki (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*KAWASAKI, Masahiro (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*MUKOONO, Shinji (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP*Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*ISHIZUKA, Kimihiko (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*MORIUE, Shota (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*NISHIKOBE, Natsuko (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*HIGUCHI, Mariko (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*SHINOZAKI, Keiko (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*SAWADA, Naoko (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti libéral démocrate)

Member of the House of Councillors
Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (LDP)
Director, House of Councillors
Directeur, Chambre des Conseillers
Adviser, House of Councillors
Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers
Adviser, House of Councillors
Conseiller, Chambre des Conseillers
Secretary General, House of Representatives
*Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants*Adviser, House of Representatives
Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants
Adviser, House of Representatives
Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants
Adviser, House of Representatives
Conseillère, Chambre des Représentants
House of Councillors
Chambre des Conseillers
House of Councillors
Chambre des Conseillers
House of Councillors
*Chambre des Conseillers***JORDAN - JORDANIE**ALTARAWNEH, Atif (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

HEMSY, Ziyad (Mr./M.)

ALSHAWABKEH, Zaid (Mr./M.)

BAKKAR, Khaled (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and
International Security
*Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix
et de la sécurité*Speaker of the House of Representatives
*Président de la Chambre des Représentants*Member of the Senate
*Membre du Sénat*Member of the House of Representatives
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

BANI MUSTAFA, Wafaa (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</i>
ADWAN, Firas (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 WAKED, Abdelrahim (Mr./M.)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABBADI, Mo'ath (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
AL- AJARMEH, Hasan (Mr./M.)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RAMADAN AWAD, Khaled (Mr./M.)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
NAIMAT, Husam (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Presidency Section, House of Representatives <i>Chef de la Présidence, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ZAYADEEN, Haitham (Mr./M.)	Advisor, House of Representatives <i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KAZAKHSTAN	
NIGMATULIN, Nurlan (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Mazhilis <i>Président de la Chambre des représentants (Nur Otan)</i>
GROMOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Président du Sénat</i>
SULTANOV, Yerik (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Committee on Economic Policy, Innovation Development and Entrepreneurship <i>Membre du Sénat Commission de la politique économique, du développement de l'innovation et de l'entrepreneuriat</i>
YERSHOV, Sergey (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 Senate Committee on Socio-Cultural Development and Science <i>Membre du Sénat Commission du développement socio-culturel et de la science</i>
KONUROV, Aikyn (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mazhilis Committee on Agrarian Issues <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (CPP) Commission des affaires agraires</i>
ASHIMBAEV, Maulen (Mr./M.) Bureau of 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 Mazhilis Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (Nur Otan) Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité</i>
ZHAILGANOVA, Anar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Mazhilis Committee on Legislation and Legal Reform <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (Nur Otan) Commission de la législation et de la réforme juridique</i>
ZHUMADILDAYEVA, Natalya (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Mazhilis Committee on Social and Cultural Development <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants Commission du développement social et culturel</i>
PERUASHEV, Azat (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Mazhilis Committee for Economic Reform and Regional Development

MAKEN, Baktiyar (Mr./M.)
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Membre de la Chambre des représentants (Ak-Zhol)
Commission de la réforme économique et du
développement régional
Member of the Mazhilis
Committee for Economic Reform and Regional
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NUSKABAY, Askhat (Mr./M.)

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développement régional
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Secrétaire général adjoint du Conseil de l'Assemblée de
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Experte principale, Gestion d'événements officiels

ZHAMSATOV, Alikhan (Mr./M.)

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Chef adjoint de l'administration et de la logistique

ZAKHAROV, Vladimir (Mr./M.)

Director, Representative Office of « KTZ »

KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr./M.)
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Secrétaire général du Groupe

Directeur du Bureau du Représentant du "KTZ"
Head, Department of International Relations and
Protocol
Chef du Département des relations internationales et du
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BOTABAYEVA, Botagoz (Ms./Mme)

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Conseillère du Président de la Chambre des
représentants

BEKENOV, Aray (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Mazhilis
Conseiller, Chambre des représentants

ABRAMOVA, Olga (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, Mazhilis
Conseillère, Chambre des représentants

KELSEITOV, Yergali (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, Mazhilis
Directeur adjoint, Chambre des représentants

MAKHAYEV, Dastan (Mr./M.)

Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman
Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président

PODVALOV, Alexandr (Mr./M.)

Adviser, Senate
Conseiller, Sénat

NUKEZHANOV, Yerzhan (Mr./M.)

Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman
Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président

MEDEUBAY, Darkhan (Mr./M.)

Deputy Head of the Administration to the Chairman
Chef adjoint de l'administration auprès du Président

ULTANBAY, Assel (Ms./Mme)

Adviser, Mazhilis
Conseillère, Chambre des représentants

SVEC, Svetlana (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

MEYRMAN, Saken (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

BATTAKOV, Kazybek (Mr./M.) Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

ALENOVA, Aknur (Ms./Mme)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente

(Nur Otan: People's Democratic Party / Parti populaire démocratique)

(CPP: Communist People's Party of Kazakhstan / Parti communiste populaire)

(Ak-Zhol: Democratic Party of Kazakhstan «Ak Zhol» / Parti démocratique "Ak Zhol")

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>
ALFADHALAH, Yousuf (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ABDULLAH, Khalil (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</i>
ALHASHIM, Safaa (Ms./Mme)	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>
ALTABTABAE, Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ALTABTABAE, Waleed (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>
ALDALAL, Mohammed Hussain (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	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>
ALJAZZAF, Musaad (Mr./M.)	International Affairs, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Affaires internationales, Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALHARBAN, Talal (Mr./M.)	Head of the Foreign Affairs Department , National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALKANDARI, Othman (Mr./M.)	Protocol, National Assembly <i>Protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMOTAWWA, Amal (Mr./M.)	Director of Media Department, National Assembly <i>Directeur du Département des médias, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALMONEEFI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Protocol, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Protocole, Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALDOWAIHI, Nasser (Mr./M.)	Head of the Media Section, National Assembly <i>Chef de la Section des médias, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALBEHBEHANI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Political Researcher, Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department, National Assembly <i>Chercheur politique, Département de l'organisation interparlementaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALFARIS, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Media Department, National Assembly <i>Département des médias, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALAJMI, Mobarak (Mr./M.)	Head Section of Protocol, National Assembly <i>Chef de la Section du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
ALAWADHI, Abdullah (Mr./M.)	Head Section of International Affairs, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Chef de la Section des affaires internationales, Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>

ALANEZI, Mishal (Mr./M.)

Director of Inter-Parliamentary Organization Department,
National Assembly*Directeur du Département de l'organisation
interparlementaire, Assemblée nationale*

ALSUBAIE, Sara (Ms./Mme)

Political Researcher, Inter-Parliamentary Organization
Department, National Assembly*Chercheuse politique, Département de l'organisation
interparlementaire, Assemblée nationale***KYRGYZSTAN – KIRGHIZISTAN**

TURSUNBEKOV, Chynybai (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*

ASYLBK UULU, Damirbek (Mr./M.)

Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs
*Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires
des Nations Unies*

Speaker of the Supreme Council

Président du Conseil suprême (SDP)

Member of the Supreme Council

Deputy Chair of the Committee on Constitutional
Legislation, State Device, Judicial and Legal Issues and
Regulations*Membre du Conseil suprême (K)**Vice-Président de la Commission de la législation
constitutionnelle, du dispositif étatique, des affaires
judiciaires et légales et des réglementations*

NIKITENKO, Natalia (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Supreme Council

Committee on Social Issues, Education, Science,
Culture and Health*Membre du Conseil suprême (AM)**Commission des affaires sociales, de l'éducation, de la
science, de la culture et de la santé*

ZHAPAROV, Akylbek (Mr./M.)

Member of the Supreme Council

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Membre du Conseil suprême (BB)**Membre de la Commission du budget et des finances*

ARYKBAEVA, Aida (Mr./M.)

Expert of the International Relations and Protocol
Department, Supreme Council*Expert du Département des relations internationales et
du protocole, Conseil suprême*

ASANGUL, Bakyt (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*Head of the International Relations and Protocol
Department, Supreme Council*Chef du Département des relations internationales et du
protocole, Conseil suprême*

DZHAMANBAEV, Musa (Mr./M.)

Head of the Protocol Service, Supreme Council

Chef du Service du protocole, Conseil suprême

KOSHELEVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)

Expert, Global Parliamentarians Forum for Evaluation

*Experte, Forum mondial des parlementaires de
l'évaluation*

RYSPAEV, Kurmanbek (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

TOKTALIEV, Mirlanbek (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the delegation

Secrétaire de la délégation

Press Service, Supreme Council

Service de presse, Conseil suprême

Press Secretary, Supreme Council

Secrétaire de presse, Conseil suprême

ZHOLDOSHBEKOV, Manas (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

TOKBAEVA, Ayana (Ms./Mme)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(SDP: Social-democratic party of the Kyrgyzstan / Parti social-démocrate)

(K: "Kyrgyzstan" Party / Parti Kirghizstan)

(AM: Ata-Meken)

(BB: "Bir Bol" Political Party)

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

BOUTTANAVONG, Bounpone (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale

THEPACHANH, Viengthavisone (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*

BOUPHA, Phonphet (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Vice Chairperson of the Social Cultural Affairs

Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale**Vice-Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales**et culturelles*

ANOTHAY, Khemphone (Mr./M.)

Director General, National Assembly

Directeur général, Assemblée nationale

PHONGSA, Anousak (Mr./M.)

Secretary to Vice Speaker, National Assembly

Secrétaire du Vice-Président, Assemblée nationale

PHETVORASSACK, Siviengphet (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

NANTHALANGSY, Phasouk (Mr./M.)

Embassy Staff / *Secrétariat de l'Ambassade*

SAYYASOUK, Souliyo (Mr./M.)

Embassy Staff / *Secrétariat de l'Ambassade***LATVIA – LETTONIE**

DAUDZE, Gundars (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Legal Affairs Committee

Parliamentary Inquiry Committee

*Vice-Président du Parlement (ZZS)**Commission des affaires juridiques**Commission d'enquête parlementaire*

ABOLTINA, Solvita (Ms./Mme)

Member of Parliament / Chairperson of the National

Security Committee / Legal Affairs Committee

*Membre du Parlement (VIENOTIBA)**Présidente de la Commission de la sécurité nationale**Commission des affaires juridiques*

MIRSKIS, Sergejs (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament

Foreign Affairs Committee

Secretary of the Citizenship, Migration and Social

Cohesion Committee

*Membre du Parlement (C)**Commission des affaires étrangères**Secrétaire de la Commission de la citoyenneté, de la**migration et de la cohésion sociale*

SICS, Martins (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament

Social and Employment Matters Committee

Public Expenditure and Audit Committee

*Membre du Parlement (LRA)**Commission des questions sociales et de l'emploi**Commission des dépenses publiques et d'évaluation*

SUDRABA, Inguna (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Budget and Finance (Taxation) Committee Public Expenditure and Audit Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (LH)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances (taxation)</i> <i>Commission des dépenses publiques et d'évaluation</i>
RAFELDE, Lelde (Ms./Mme) Secretary, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
PAURA, Sandra (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of the Interparliamentary Relations Bureau, Parliament <i>Chef du Bureau des relations interparlementaires,</i> <i>Parlement</i>
(ZZS: Union of Farmers and Greens / Union des Verts et des paysans) (VIENOTIBA: Unity / Unité) (C: Concord parliamentary group / Groupe parlementaire Concorde) (LRA: Latvian Regional Alliance) (LH: For Latvia from the Heart)	

LEBANON – LIBAN

BAZZI, Ali (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the Foreign Affairs & Emigrants Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DLB)</i> <i>Membre de la Commission des affaires étrangères et de l'émigration</i>
SHABB, Bassem (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Member of the National Defense, Internal Affairs and Municipalities Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FM)</i> <i>Membre de la Commission de la défense nationale, des affaires intérieures et des municipalités</i>
ZOUEIN, Gilberte (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly President of the Women & Child Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FPM)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la mère et de l'enfant</i>
NIHAWI, Samir (Mr./M.)	Director of Financial and Parliamentary Affairs, National Assembly <i>Directeur des affaires financières et parlementaires,</i> <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
(FM: Future Movement / Courant du futur) (DLB: Development and Liberation bloc / Bloc de développement et libération) (FPM: Free Patriotic Movement / Mouvement patriotique libre)	

LESOTHO

MOTANYANE, Sephiri (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MONETHI, Ts'epo (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate Business Committee Parliamentary Reforms Committee <i>Vice-Président du Sénat (BNP) / Comité directeur</i> <i>Commission des réformes parlementaires</i>
MOHALE, 'Mako Thato (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Legislation, Amenities, Standing Orders and Parliamentary Reforms Committee <i>Membre du Sénat</i> <i>Commission de la législation, des infrastructures, du règlement et des réformes parlementaires</i>

HLAO, Mapulumo (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Business Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BNP)</i> <i>Comité directeur</i>
KABI, Nkaku (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Business Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ABC)</i> <i>Comité directeur</i>
SEKATLE, Semano (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / Business Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale / Comité directeur</i>
MAEMA, Lebohang (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to the National Assembly, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale, Assemblée nationale</i>
MANAMOLELA, Khotso (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to the Senate, Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat, Sénat</i>
NTENE, Thabo (Mr./M.)	Clerk Assistant, National Assembly <i>Greffier adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>

(BNP: Basotho National Party / Parti national basotho)
(ABC: All Basotho Convention / Convention des Basotho)

LIECHTENSTEIN

WOHLWEND, Mario (Mr./M.) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Diet <i>Membre, Diète (VU)</i>
HASLER, Johannes (Mr./M.) WACHTER, Gabriele (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Member of the Diet / <i>Membre, Diète (FBP)</i> Secretary, Diet <i>Secrétaire, Diète</i>

(VU: Patriotic Union / Union patriotique)
(FBP: Progressive Peoples Party / Parti des citoyens progressistes)

LUXEMBOURG

MOSAR, Laurent (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Member of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies Deputy Chair, Committee for Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Cooperation and Immigration <i>Vice-Président des la Chambre des Députés (CSV)</i> <i>Membre du Bureau de la Chambre des Députés</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires</i> <i>étrangères et européennes, de la défense, de la</i> <i>coopération et de l'immigration</i>
BODRY, Alex (Mr./M.)	Member of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Committee on Institution, Constitutional Revision Deputy Chair of the Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre du Bureau de la Chambre des Députés (LSAP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des institutions et de la</i> <i>révision constitutionnelle</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des finances et du</i> <i>budget</i>
BERGER, Eugène (Mr./M.)	Member of the Bureau of the Chamber of Deputies Chair of the Committee on Finance and Budget <i>Membre du Bureau de la Chambre des Députés (DP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des finances et du budget</i>
BARRA, Isabelle (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe de la Chambre des</i> <i>Députés</i>

(CSV: Parti chrétien social)
(PD: Democratic Party / Parti Démocratique)
(LSAP: - Parti ouvrier socialiste luxembourgeois)

MADAGASCAR

RAKOTOMAMONJY, Jean Max (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 (LF)</i>
RAHANTASOA, Lydia Aimée Vololona (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (TM)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
RAKOTOMALALA, Lucien (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly National Defence Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MAPAR)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i>
RAVELONANOSY, Mamy Tiana Telesphore Gérard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Committee on Country Planning and Land Management <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (TM)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'aménagement du</i> <i>territoire et de la gestion foncière</i>
RAJAONARIVELO, Pierrot Jocelyn (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chair, International Relations Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (MDM)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des relations</i> <i>internationales</i>
RANDRIANANTENAINA, Lucien (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / Decentralization Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (HVM) / Commission de la</i> <i>décentralisation</i>
RANDRIAMAHAFANJARY, Andriamitarijato Calvin (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation / <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Inspector General, National Assembly <i>Inspecteur général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
(LF: Leader Fanilo)	
(TM: Tiako Madagasikara)	
(MAPAR: Miaraka Aminny Presida Andry Rajoelina "Avec le Président Andry Rajoelina)	
(MDM: Movement for Democracy in Madagascar / Mouvement pour la démocratie à Madagascar)	
(HVM: Hery Vaovao ho an'i Madagasikara)	

MALAWI

MSOWOYA, Richard (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)</i>
GWENGWE, Willard (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Commerce and Industry Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du commerce et de</i> <i>l'industrie</i>
CHUNGA, Macquenda (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
KAMWAMBI, James (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
MLOMBWA, Clement (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Legal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MCP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques</i>
MPAWENI, Yaumi (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Government Assurance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)</i> <i>Commission sur l'assurance du gouvernement</i>

NAVICHA, Mary (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Social and Community Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales et communautaires</i>
MHONE, Raphael (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Government Assurance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission sur l'assurance du gouvernement</i>
KALEMBA, Fiona (Ms./Mme)	Clerk of Parliament, National Assembly
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
MWENYEHELI, Jeffrey (Mr./M.)	Assistant Clerk of Parliament
Secretary to the delegation	<i>Greffier adjoint du Parlement</i>
<i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
(MCP: Malawi Congress Party / Parti du Congrès du Malawi)	
(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)	
(DPP: Democratic Progressive Party / Parti démocratique progressiste)	
(UDF: United Democratic Front / Front démocratique unifié)	

MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

WEE, Ka Siong (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives
Leader of the Delegation	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MCA)</i>
<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
MD NORDIN, Fahariyah (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate
	<i>Membre du Sénat (UMNO)</i>
KARPAL SINGH, Ramkarpal Singh (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DAP)</i>
BELAUN, Joseph Entulu (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SPA)</i>
M., Saravanan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MIC)</i>
SIM, Tza Tzin (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives
	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PKR)</i>
MOHD YAZID, Mastura (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives
	<i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (UMNO)</i>
WILFRED, Yong Chen Leong (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate / <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
LIM, Ching Hao (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
KOK AUN, Danny Ng (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ARIFIN, Hasan (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
LOW, Ah Keong (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
MATHEW MIKE, Babiana (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WONG, Tien Fatt (Mr./M.)	Adviser, House of Representatives
	<i>Conseiller, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SEONG HEN, Chua (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SAMSURI, Zamrizam (Mr./M.)	Senior Assistant Secretary, House of Representatives
Secretary of the Group	<i>Secrétaire principal adjoint, Chambre des</i>
<i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	<i>Représentants</i>
MOHD JAMEL, Nurul Jiana (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, House of Representatives
	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
WONG, Lih Yen (Mr./M.)	Secretary, House of Representatives
Secretary of the Delegation	<i>Secrétaire, Chambre des Représentants</i>
<i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

VLADIMIROVNA, Zalina Kushkhova (Ms./Mme)

Embassy Staff
Secrétariat de l'Ambassade

MANSOR, Ahmad Salman (Mr./M.)

Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(MCA: Malaysian Chinese Association / Association sino-malaisienne)

(UMNO: United Malays National Organisation / Organisation malaisienne nationale unie)

(DAP: Democratic Action Party / Parti d'action démocratique)

(SPA: Sarawak Peoples' Party / Parti populaire Sarawak)

(MIC: Malaysian Indian Congress / Congrès indien malais)

(PKR: People's Justice Party / Parti de la justice nationale)

MALDIVES

MOHAMED, Abdulla Maseeh (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the People's Majlis

Président, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)

HUSSAIN MANIK, Ahmed Nihan (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)

MAUROOF, Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple (MDA)

RIFAU, Abdulla (Mr./M.)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)

RASHEED, Asma (Ms./Mme)

Member of the People's Majlis

Membre, Majlis du Peuple (PPM)

ZAKARIYYA, Abdul Hameed (Mr./M.)

Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP

Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP

Assistant Secretary General, People's Majlis

Secrétaire général adjoint, Majlis du Peuple

SIMAD, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)

Secretary to the delegation / *Secrétaire de la délégation*

(PPM: Progressive Party of Maldives / Parti progressiste des Maldives)

(MDA: Maldives Development Alliance / Alliance des Maldives pour le développement)

MALI

SIDIBE, Issaka (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation

Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly

Finance Committee

*Président de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)**Commission des finances*

NIANGADOU, Hadi (Mr./M.)

Second Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Law Committee

*Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Nationale**(CODEM) / Commission des lois*

TIMBINE, Moussa (Mr./M.)

Acting President of the Group

Président délégué du Groupe

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Law Committee

*Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)**Commission des Lois*

CISSE, Amadou (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*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Public Works Committee

*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée Nationale (URD)**Commission des travaux publics*

DRAME, Maimouna (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly

Work and Employment Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)**Commission du travail et de l'emploi*

TRAORE, Seydou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly

Public Works Committee

*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (RPM)**Commission des travaux publics*

SIDIBE, Modibo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
TOURE, Ibrahim M (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Secretary General, National Assembly
Secrétaire général, Assemblée Nationale
Head of the International Relations Service, National
Assembly
Chef du Service des Relations Internationales,
Assemblée Nationale
Protocol, National Assembly
Protocole, Assemblée Nationale

AG ALHOUDA, Alhassane (Mr./M.)

(RPM: Rally for Mali / *Rassemblement pour le Mali*)
(CODEM: Convergence for Mali's Development / *Convergence pour le développement du Mali*)
(URD: Republic and Democracy Union / *Union pour la République et la démocratie*)

MALTA – MALTE

FARRUGIA, Angelo (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
GALEA, Mario (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Président de la Chambre des Représentants

MUSCAT, Alexander (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PN)
Member of the House of Representatives
Chairperson of the Environment and Development
Planning Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PL)
Président de la Commission de l'environnement et de la
planification du développement

VELLA, Andre (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Research Analyst, House of Representatives
Analyste de recherche, Chambre des Représentants

(PN: Partit Nazzjonalista)
(PL: Partit Laburista)

MAURITANIA - MAURITANIE

BOILIL, Mohamed (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
BABA SY, Marieme (Ms./Mme)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

TALEBNA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

AMAR CHEINE Salma (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale

MAHMOUD BRAHIM, Mohamed (Mr./M.)
Assistant to the Speaker
Assistant du président

Chargé de Mission, National Assembly
Chargé de mission, l'Assemblée nationale

(UPR: Union for the Republic Party / *Union Pour la République*)

MAURITIUS – MAURICE

HANOOMANJEE, Santi Bai (Ms./Mme)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the National Assembly
Chairperson of the Parliamentary Gender Caucus
Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale
Présidente du Caucus parlementaire du genre

RAMCHURN, Urmeelah Devi (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Clerk, National Assembly
Secrétaire générale adjointe, Assemblée nationale

MEXICO – MEXIQUE

CORDERO ARROYO, Ernesto (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation / *Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the Senate
Président du Sénat (PAN)

CUEVAS BARRON, Gabriela (Ms./Mme)	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>
GIL ZUARTH, Roberto (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (PAN)</i>
SANTANA ALFARO, Arturo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Vice-President of the Directive Board <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> <i>Vice-Président du Comité directeur</i>
POZOS LANZ, Raul Aarón (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 HERNÁNDEZ, Laura Angélica (Ms./Mme) President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la</i> <i>paix et de la sécurité</i>	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 et</i> <i>des organisations internationales</i>
GUERRA CASTILLO, 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>
SOTO ESPINO, Armando (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Economic Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)</i> <i>Commission économique</i>
VARGAS BÁRCENA, Marisol (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
BERMÚDEZ MÉNDEZ, José Erandi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
REYNOSO SÁNCHEZ, Alejandra (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
FLORES AVALOS, Héctor (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
GONZÁLEZ CARRILLO, Adriana (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>
QUIÑONES GARCÍA, María Luisa, (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>
PAEZ ORTIZ, Diana Alejandra (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseillère, Sénat</i>
BIELMA VELAZQUEZ, Omar Alfredo (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Senate / <i>Conseiller, Sénat</i>
PENSADO MORENO, Norma (Ms./Mme) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente</i>	
ESCANERO FIGUEROA, Mauricio (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
PRÍA, Melba (Ms./Mme) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
PASTRANA URANGA, Joaquin Gerardo (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
LÓPEZ-PORTILLO ALCOCER, Catalina (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
FORTUNY JEREZ, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

(PAN: National Action Party / Parti de l'Action nationale)
 (PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)
 (PRD: Democratic Revolution Party / Parti de la révolution démocratique)
 (L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF) - MICRONESIE (ETATS FEDERES DE)

SIMINA, Wesley W. (Mr./M.)
 President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Congress
 Committees on Education
 Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
 Committee on Transportation and Communication
*Président, Congrès / Commission de l'éducation
 Commission des opérations judiciaires et
 gouvernementales*

MOSES, Esmond B. (Mr./M.)
 Vice President of the Group
Vice-Président du Groupe

Deputy Speaker of the Congress
 Committee on Education
 Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
 Committee on Resources and Development
*Vice-Président, Congrès / Commission de l'éducation
 Commission des opérations judiciaires et
 gouvernementales*

ALIK, Alik L. (Mr./M.)

Commission des ressources et du développement
 Member of the Congress
 Chairman, Special Committee on Climate Change
 Committee on Education
 Vice Chairman of the Resources and Development
 Committee
 Vice Chairman, Committee on Health and Social Affairs
 Committee on Transportation and Communication
*Membre, Congrès
 Président de la Commission spéciale du changement
 climatique / Commission de l'éducation
 Vice-Président de la Commission des ressources et du
 développement
 Vice-Président de la Commission de la santé et des
 affaires sociales*

FIGIR, Isaac V. (Mr./M.)

Commission des transports et des communications
 Member of the Congress
 Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee
 Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations
 External Affairs Committee
 Resources and Development Committee
*Membre, Congrès
 Président de la Commission des voies et moyens
 Commission des opérations judiciaires et
 gouvernementales
 Commission des affaires extérieures
 Commission des ressources et du développement*

DANG, T. Lam (Mr./M.)
 Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
 CHOOR, Andy P. (Mr./M.)

Legislative Counsel, Congress
Conseiller législatif, Congrès
 Assistant Public Information, Congress
Assistant d'information, Congrès

MONACO

STEINER, Christophe (Mr./M.)
 Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
 FICINI, Alain (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the National Council
Président du Conseil national (NM)
 Member of the National Council
Membre du Conseil national (HM)

PELLEGRIN, Victoria (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation
THOMEL, Elodie (Ms./Mme)

International Relations
Relations internationales

Protocol Officer, National Council
Chargée de Mission pour le Protocole, Conseil national

(NM: New Majority / Nouvelle Majorité)
(HM: Monaco Horizon / Horizon Monaco)

MONGOLIA – MONGOLIE

YADAMSUREN, Sanjmyatav (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the State Great Hural
Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy
Standing Committee on Social Policy, Education,
Culture and Science
Standing Committee on Environment, Food and
Agriculture
Vice-Président, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
Commission permanente de la sécurité et de la politique
étrangère

Commission permanente de la politique sociale, de
l'éducation, de la culture et de la science
Commission permanente de l'environnement, de
l'alimentation et de l'agriculture

DAKYEI, Murat (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)

LUVSANVANDAN, Bold (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Standing Committee on Security and Foreign Policy
Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
Standing Committee on Legal Affairs
Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
Commission permanente de la sécurité et de la politique
étrangère

Commission permanente des affaires économiques
Commission permanente des affaires juridiques

ZAGDKHUU, Narantuya (Ms./Mme)

Member of the State Great Hural
Standing Committee on Budget
Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (DP)
Commission permanente du budget
Commission permanente des affaires économiques

GANZORIG, Temuulen (Mr./M.)

Member of the State Great Hural
Membre, Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPP)

BELEGDEMBEREL, Uuganbayar (Mr./M.)

Officer of the Foreign Relations Department, State Great
Hural
Chargé du Département des relations étrangères, Grand
Khoural de l'Etat

JUDAG, Bayarmaa (Ms./Mme)

Advisor, Foreign Relations Department, State Great
Hural
Conseillère, Département des relations étrangères,
Grand Khoural de l'Etat

TSERENJAV, Oyun (Ms./Mme)

Senior Officer, Press and Public Relations Department,
State Great Hural
Haut responsable, Département de la presse et des
relations publiques, Grand Khoural de l'Etat

GANKHUYAG, Shaarav-Arildii (Mr./M.)

Staff, Secretariat of the Parliament
Secrétariat du Parlement

TSERENCHIMED, Sainsanaa (Ms./Mme)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(DP: Democratic Party / Parti démocratique)
(MPP: Mongolian People's Party / Parti populaire mongole)

MOROCCO – MAROC

OMARI, Abdelaziz (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 (PJD)</i>
TOUMI, Ahmed (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 House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PI)</i>
EL ABDI, Rachid (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)</i>
CHEIKHI, Nabil (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PJD)</i>
BENMASSOUD, Mohamed Salem (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Councillors <i>Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)</i>
EL HILAA, Rahhou (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PAM)</i>
LAZREK, Noureddine (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants</i>
TOUIZI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Councillors <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PAM)</i>
EL KHADI, Najib (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général, Chambre des représentants</i>
AZARKAN, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Speaker's Office, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller au Cabinet du Président, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
DRIOUCHE, Abdelwahad (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	General Councillor, Parliamentary Diplomacy, House of Councillors <i>Conseiller général chargé de la diplomatie parlementaire, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
SATRAOUY, Said (Mr./M.) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Head, Division of International Relations and Cooperation, House of Representatives <i>Chef de la Division des relations internationales et de la coopération, Chambre des représentants</i>

(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)

(PI: Istiqlal Party / Parti de l'Istiqlal)

(PAM: Authenticity and Modernity Party / Parti Authenticité et Modernité)

MOZAMBIQUE

DHLOVO, Veronica Macamo (Ms./Mme) President of the Group <i>Présidente du Groupe</i>	Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
KATUPHA, Jose Mateus (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
MACUIANE, Saimone Muhambi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (RENAMO)</i>
MALEMA, Lucinda Bela (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i>
SEBASTIÃO, Carlos (Mr./M.)	Member of the Assembly of the Republic Chairperson of the Youth Cabinet <i>Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (FRELIMO)</i> <i>Président du Cabinet des jeunes</i>
CORREIA, Armando Mario (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée de la République</i>
BONIFACIO, Cesar Joao (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director of Committee's Support Division, Assembly of the Republic <i>Directeur de la Division du soutien à la Commission, Assemblée de la République</i>
LISSENGA, Lucrecia (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Speaker, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée de la République</i>

MACARINGUE, Milagre (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Advisor to the Speaker , Assembly of the Republic <i>Conseiller diplomatique de la Président, Assemblée de la République</i>
NEVES, Simiao Pedro (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
MIRASSE, Salvador (Mr./M.)	Media Officer, Assembly of the Republic <i>Chargé des médias, Assemblée de la République</i>
NHACALE, Ivonildo (Mr./M.)	Media Officer, Assembly of the Republic <i>Chargé des médias, Assemblée de la République</i>
(FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique)	
(RENAMO: Mozambican National Resistance / Résistance nationale du Mozambique)	

MYANMAR

T KHUN, Myatt (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants</i>
AUNG, Kyi Nyut (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Nationalities <i>Membre de la Chambre des nationalités</i>
KYW, Soe (Mr./M.)	Director General, Assembly of the Union <i>Directeur général de l'Assemblée de l'Union</i>
KO KO, Shein (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
OO NYUNT, Maung (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
SENG, Khun (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

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 <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 (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Présidente du Groupe, Présidente du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Chairperson of the National Council Chairperson of the Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission du règlement et de la procédure</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 Commission permanente de l'habitat</i>
SIBUNGO, Heather (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Human Resources and Community Development Committee Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SWAPO)</i> <i>Commission des ressources humaines et du développement communautaire</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente de l'économie et de l'administration publique</i>
DIENDA, Elma (Ms./Mme)	Member of Parliament Standing Committee on Human Resources and Community Development Committee on Public Accounts Standing Committee on Gender Equality and Family Affairs

MUPURUA, Juliet Undjee (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
NAKUTWIMA, Mirjam Nadula (Ms./Mme)

DE WEE, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
SHALI, Auguste T (Ms./Mme)
Co-Secretary of the Group / *Co-Secrétaire du Groupe*

KANDETU, Lydia (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
SANZILA, George (Mr./M.)

TJITENDERO, Ripuree (Ms./Mme)

Membre du Parlement (DTA)
Commission permanente des ressources humaines et
du développement communautaire
Commission des comptes publics
Commission permanente de l'égalité des sexes et de la
famille

Deputy Secretary, National Council
Secrétaire adjointe, Conseil national
Personal Assistant to the Chairperson of the National
Council
Assistante particulière de la Présidente du Conseil
national

Chief Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly
Greffier parlementaire principal, Assemblée nationale
Parliamentary Clerk, National Council
Greffière parlementaire, Conseil national

Secretary of the National Assembly
Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale
Secretariat, National Assembly
Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale

Personal Assistant to the Speaker, National Assembly
Assistante particulière du Président, Assemblée
nationale

(SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organization / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)
(DTA: DTA of Namibia / DTA de Namibie)

NETHERLANDS - PAYS-BAS

BROEKERS-KNOL, Ankie (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

GERKENS, Arda (Ms./Mme)

MULDER, Agnes (Ms./Mme)

HAMILTON, Geert Jan (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
SCHRIJVER, Nico (Mr./M.)

VAN LUIJK, Luuk (Mr./M.)

WESTERHOFF, Arjen (Mr./M.)
Secretary to the delegation, Member of the ASGP
Secrétaire de la délégation, Membre de l'ASGP

Speaker of the Senate
Présidente du Sénat (VVD)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat (PS)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CDA)

Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général, Sénat

Honorary Member of the Senate
Membre honoraire du Sénat

First Secretary General, Senate
Premier Secrétaire général, Sénat

Head of the Interparliamentary Department, House of
Representatives
Chef du Département interparlementaire, Chambre des
Représentants

(VVD: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy / Parti populaire pour la liberté et la démocratie)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

(CDA: Christian Democratic Appeal / Appel chrétien-démocrate)

NEW ZEALAND - NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

CARTER, David (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Chairperson of the Standing Orders Committee
Chairperson of the Officers of Parliament Committee
Chairperson of the Business Committee
Président de la Chambre des Représentants (NP)
Président de la Commission du règlement
Président de la Commission des fonctionnaires du
parlement
Président du Comité directeur

DOWIE, Sarah (Ms./Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives
Chairperson of the Justice and Electoral Committee
Health Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NP)
Présidente de la Commission judiciaire et électorale
Commission de la santé

HENARE, Peeni (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
M'ori Affairs Committee
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (L)
Commission des affaires des Maoris

DAWBBER-ASHLEY, Charlotte (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

Parliamentary Officer (Inter-Parliamentary Relations),
House of Representatives
Fonctionnaire parlementaire (relations
interparlementaires), Chambre des Représentants

HILL, Ian Alexander (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

BELOGLAZOVA, Irina (Ms./Mme)
Diplomat / *Diplomat*

(NP: National Party / Parti national)

(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)

NICARAGUA

ESPINALES, Maritza Del Socorro (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Deputy Chair, Modernization Committee
Committee on Education, Culture, Sport and Social
Communication Media
Première Vice-Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale
Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la modernisation
Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, du sport et des
moyens de communication sociale

VASQUES ARAYA, Juan Ernesto (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

(FSLN: Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional)

NIGER

SANI, Iro (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

First Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
Committee on General and Institutional Affairs
Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale
(PNDS/Tarraya)
Commission des Affaires générales et institutionnelles

ANDACHÉ, Habibou (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Defence and Security Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS/Tarraya)
Commission de la Défense et de Sécurité

ALKASSOUM, Mahamadou A. (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Defence and Security Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPR/Jamhouria)
Membre de la Commission de la Défense et de Sécurité
Member of the National Assembly
Committee on Finance and Budget
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (GR)
Commission des finances et du budget

DAOUDOU, Nouhou (Mr./M.)

HABIBOU, Aminatou (Ms./Mme) Member of the Executive Committee and ex officio Member of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité exécutif et Membre ex officio du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Rural Development and Environment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PNDS/Tarraya) Commission du développement rural et de l'environnement</i>
MAIZOUMBOU, Laoual Amadou (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MNSD/Nassara) Commission des Affaires économiques et du plan</i>
SEYNI, Adiza (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Economic Affairs and Planning <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZZL) Commission des affaires économiques et du plan</i>
MOUSSA, Mossi (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Speaker's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint de cabinet du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOUSSA, Moutari (Mr./M.) Adviser to the Group <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Technical Adviser, Law Committee, National Assembly <i>Conseiller technique de la Commission des lois, Assemblée nationale</i>
(PNDS/Tarraya: Niger Party for Democracy and Socialism / Parti nigérien pour la démocratie et le socialisme) (MPR/Jamhouria: Patriotic Movement for the Republic / Mouvement patriotique pour la République) (GR: Groupe les Républicains) (MNSD/Nassara: National Movement for the Development Society / Mouvement national pour la société de développement) (ZZL: ZamZam/Lumana)	

NIGERIA

SARAKI, Bukola A. (Mr./M.) President of the group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate Chairperson of the Committee on Selection <i>Président du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission de sélection</i>
YUSSUFF, Sulaimon Lasun (Mr./M.) Vice-President of the Group <i>Vice-Président du Groupe</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Committee <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des représentants (APC) Président de la Commission de la révision constitutionnelle</i>
GAYA, Kabiru (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Committee on Works <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission des travaux</i>
IBRAHIM, Rafi'u Adebayo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate Chairperson of the Banking Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Président de la Commission des banques</i>
NAFADA, Bayero Usman (Mr./M.) ODUA, Stella (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Vice Chairperson of the Women Affairs <i>Membre du Sénat (APC) Vice-Présidente des affaires féminines</i>
TARKIGHIR, Thyohumun Dickson (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants</i>
FULATA, Abubakar Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Inter Parliamentary Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (APC) Commission interparlementaire</i>
IGBOKWE, Raphael Nnanna (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDP)</i>
IKON, Samuel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Inter Parliamentary Relations Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDP) Commission des relations interparlementaires</i>

DASUKI, Abdulsamad (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants</i>
FASEYI, Duro (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
SANI-OMOLORI, Muhammed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AYEWOH, Nelson (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk, Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
AUDU, Rabi (Ms./Mme) Secretary of Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretariat of Nigerian Legislators, Senate <i>Secrétariat des législateurs nigériens, Sénat</i>
LASISI, Bukoye (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary Finance and Accounts, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Comptes et finances, Chambre des représentants</i>
OKOH, Bernard Uzeme (Mr./M.)	Clerk, Senate Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Affairs <i>Secrétaire de la Commission du Sénat des affaires interparlementaires</i>
UMAR, Shehu (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Director, Senate <i>Directeur adjoint, Sénat</i>
YAKUBU, Ibrahim (Mr./M.)	Chief of Protocol / <i>Chef du protocole</i>
ONOJA, Favour O. (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, National Assembly Secretariat <i>Directeur adjoint, Secrétariat de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
YAHYA, Danzaria (Ms./Mme)	Director, Public Affairs, Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Directrice des affaires publiques, Bureau du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NAVATY, Iliya (Mr./M.)	Director, General Duties, Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Directeur des fonctions générales, Bureau du Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
IBOK, Paul Asuquo (Mr./M.) Aide de camp	
OMISORE, Banmikole (Mr./M.)	Social Media / <i>Médias sociaux</i>
YAHYA, Lai (Mr./M.)	Technical Assistant / <i>Assitant technique</i>
UNEGBU, Godswill (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
HARUNA, Mercy (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(APC: All Progressives Congress / Congrès progressiste)	
(PDP: Peoples Democratic Party / Parti démocratique populaire)	

NORWAY – NORVEGE

LIADAL, Hege Haukeland (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament Sub-Committee on Family and Cultural Affairs <i>Membre du Parlement (L)</i> <i>Sous-Commission de la famille et des affaires culturelles</i>
FRASER, Thomas (Mr./M.)	Senior Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller principal, Parlement</i>
(L: Labour party / Parti du travail)	

OMAN

AL-MAAWALI, Khalid (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
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AL KHAROOSI, Naashiah (Ms./Mme) Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL MANTHARI, Rayya (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Council <i>Membre du Conseil de l'Etat</i>
AL JUNAIBI, Ghanim Said (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
RABIA, Mohammed Musallam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL MAHROUQI, Ali (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL AMRI, Sumaiya Issa (Ms./Mme)	International Relations Researcher, Consultative Council <i>Chercheuse des relations internationales, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL HOSNI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL UWAISI, Aiman (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>

PAKISTAN

RABBANI, Mian Raza (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan <i>Président du Sénat (PPPP)</i>
KAMRAN, Sehar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights Standing Committee on Defence and Defence Production Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training <i>Membre du Sénat (PPPP)</i> <i>Commission permanente des droits de l'homme</i> <i>Commission permanente de la défense et la production d'armements</i> <i>Commission permanente de l'éducation fédérale et de la formation professionnelle</i>
SHUJAT, Khushbakht (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage <i>Membre du Sénat (MQM)</i> <i>Commission permanente de l'éducation fédérale et de la formation professionnelle</i> <i>Commission permanente de l'information, de la radiodiffusion et du patrimoine national</i>
JAKHRANI, Aijaz Hussain (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP)</i>
HARRAJ, Raza Hayat (Mr./M.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PML-N)</i>
MAHMOOD, Shafqat (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PTI)</i>
QAMAR, Syed Naveed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PPPP)</i>
KHAN, Amra (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KHAN, Ghulam Sarwar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>

SAEED, Samina (Ms./Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
TIRMIZI, Sayed-Salahuddin (Mr./M.)	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
MALIK, Amjed Pervaiz (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Senate
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
MALIK, Jawad Rafique (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP	<i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
<i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HASHMI, Syed Shamoon (Mr./M.)	Adviser, International Relations, National Assembly
Joint Secretary of the Group	<i>Conseiller, Relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
<i>Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe</i>	
PATHAN, Muhammad Arshad Jan (Mr./M.)	Joint Secretary, Senate
	<i>Co-Secrétaire, Sénat</i>
JAFFAR, Muhammad (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	<i>Directeur adjoint, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
QAZI, M. Khalilullah (Mr./M.)	
Ambassador/Permanent Representative	
<i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
SHAH, Syed Ansar Hussain (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
RIND, Rauf A. (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
OLEGOVNA, Bakhvalova Olga (Ms./Mme)	
Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
KHAN, Muhammad Mubashir (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
IZMAYLOVA, Dinara Khasanovna (Ms./Mme)	
Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
GORBACHEVA, Maria (Ms./Mme)	
Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
ENIKEEVA, Marina (Ms./Mme)	
Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
(PPPP: Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians / <i>Parlementaires du Parti du peuple pakistanais</i>)	
(MQM: Muttahida Quami Movement / <i>Mouvement Muttahida Quami</i>)	
(PML-N: Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) / <i>Ligue musulmane pakistanaise (Nawaz)</i>)	
(PTI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf / <i>Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf</i>)	

PALESTINE

ALAHMAD, Azzam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
Committee on Middle East Questions, Bureau of the	Political Committee
Standing Committee on Peace and International	<i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i>
Security, Leader of the Delegation	<i>Commission politique</i>
<i>Comité Moyen-Orient, Bureau de la Commission</i>	
<i>permanente de la paix et de la sécurité, Chef de la</i>	
<i>délégation</i>	
ALWAZIR, Intisar (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Committee on Social Affairs
	<i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i>
	<i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
HAMAYEL, Omar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Committee on Economic Affairs
	<i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (F)</i>
	<i>Commission des affaires économiques</i>
KHADER, Qais (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council
	Political committee
	<i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (DFLP)</i>
	<i>Commission politique</i>

SALHI, Bassam (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (PP)</i>
QASIM, Bilal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (PLF)</i> <i>Commission des affaires sociales</i>
SANDUKA, Zuheir (Mr./M.)	Member of the Palestinian National Council Committee on Budget and Finance <i>Membre du Conseil national palestinien (Ind)</i> <i>Commission du budget et des finances</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 of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Palestinian National Council <i>Directeur général des relations interparlementaires, Conseil national palestinien</i>
(F: Fatah)	
(DFLP: Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine / Front démocratique de libération de la Palestine)	
(PLF: Palestine Liberation Front / Front de libération de la Palestine)	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	

PANAMA

BARRÍA, Luis (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Budget Committee Population, Environment and Development Committee Women, Child, Youth and Family Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du budget</i> <i>Commission de la population, de l'environnement et du développement</i> <i>Commission de la femme, de l'enfant, de la jeunesse et de la famille</i>
CASTILLO, José Luis (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chair, Work, Health and Social Welfare Committee Communication and Transport Committee Fisheries Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du travail, de la santé et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Commission des transports et des communications</i> <i>Commission de la pêche</i>
VALLARINO, Marylín (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Budget Committee Municipal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i> <i>Commission des affaires municipales</i>
SELLHORN, Agustín (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Budget Committee Municipal Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CD)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i> <i>Commission des affaires municipales</i>
ADAMES, Crispiano (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Trade and Economic Affairs Committee Public Infrastructures and Canal Affairs Work, Health and Social Welfare Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)</i> <i>Commission du commerce et des affaires économiques</i>

	<i>Commission des infrastructures publiques et des affaires du canal</i>
	<i>Commission du travail, de la santé et de la protection sociale</i>
GOZAINÉ, Samir (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Budget Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRD)</i> <i>Commission du budget</i>
WEVER, Franz (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the National Assembly
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
RÍOS, Adán (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Work, Health and Social Welfare Committee, National Assembly <i>Conseiller, Commission du travail, de la santé et de la protection sociale, Assemblée nationale</i>
(PP: Panamenista Party - People's Party / Parti panaméiste - Parti populaire	
(CD: Democratic Change / Changement démocratique)	
(PRD: Democratic Revolutionary Party / Parti révolutionnaire démocratique)	

PARAGUAY

LLANO RAMOS, Blas Antonio (Mr./M.)	Vice-President of the Congress
Leader of the delegation	<i>Vice-Président du Congrès</i>
<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	
ECHAGUE, César (Mr./M.)	Director General of Protocol, Senate
	<i>Directeur général du protocole, Sénat</i>

PERU - PEROU

CHACÓN DE VETTORI, Cecilia Isabel (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic
Leader of the Delegation	Economy, Banking, Finance and Financial Intelligence Committee
<i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Budget and General Account of the Republic Committee Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre, Congrès de la République (FP)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie, des banques, des finances et des renseignements financiers</i> <i>Commission du budget et des comptes généraux de la République</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
RODRÍGUEZ ZAVALETA, Elias Nicolas (Mr./M.)	Member of the Congress of the Republic
	<i>Membre, Congrès de la République</i>
BARTRA BARRIGA, Rosa María (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Constitution and Regulation Committee Budget and General Account of the Republic Committee Health and Population Committee <i>Membre, Congrès de la République (FP)</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution et de la réglementation</i> <i>Commission du budget et des comptes généraux de la République</i> <i>Commission de la santé et de la population</i>
<i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	
BETETA RUBÍN, Karina Juliza (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Congress of the Republic
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Chairwoman of the Budget and General Account of the Republic Committee Energy and Mines Committee <i>Membre, Congrès de la République (FP)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission du budget et des comptes généraux de la République</i> <i>Commission de l'énergie et des mines</i>
<i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	

SANCHEZ PARRA, Jaime Edward (Mr./M.)
Adviser to the delegation
Conseiller de la délégation

Adviser to the Second Vice President, Congress of the Republic
Conseiller du deuxième Vice-Président, Congrès de la République

CHIMOY ARTEAGA, Luis Benjamin (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent
(FP: Popular Force / Force populaire)

PHILIPPINES

PIMENTEL III, Aquilino "koko" (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
RECTO, Ralph (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the Senate
Président du Sénat
Deputy Speaker of the Senate
Vice-Président du Sénat

CAYETANO, Pia (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants

GARIN, Sharon (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants

HERNANDEZ, Ferdinand (Mr./M.)

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives
Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants

BINAY, Maria Lourdes Nancy (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

DRILON, Franklin (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Membre du Sénat

GARBIN, Alfredo Jr. (Mr./M.)

Member of the House of Representatives
Membre de la Chambre des Représentants

PAREJA, Cesar (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary-General of the House of Representatives
Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants

LOPEZ, Ma. Clarissa (Ms./Mme)

Legislative Staff Officer, Senate
Fonctionnaire législatif, Sénat

BUENDIA JR., Efren (Mr./M.)

Supervising Legislative Staff Office, International Relations Service, Office of International Relations and Protocol, Senate
Superviseur législatif, Service des relations internationales, Bureau des relations internationales et du protocole, Sénat
Secretary, Senate / *Secrétaire, Sénat*

BARBO, Lutgardo (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Executive Director, Legislation, Senate
Directeur exécutif, Sénat

BANTUG JR., Renato (Mr./M.)
Technical Adviser to Mr. Pimentel
Conseiller technique de M. Pimentel

Legislative Staff Officer, Senate
Fonctionnaire législative, Sénat

YAP, Carleen Angelica (Ms./Mme)

Director, Office of Senator Drilon, Senate
Directrice du Bureau de M. Drilon, Sénat

SERRANO-CALUAG, Czarina (Ms./Mme)

Technical Adviser to Mr. Drilon
Conseillère technique de M. Drilon

SALOMON, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Technical Adviser to Mr. Pimentel
Conseiller technique de M. Pimentel

Chief-of-Staff of the Senate President
Chef du Secrétariat du Président du Sénat

PORCALLA, Samuel Ceazar (Mr./M.)

Supervising Legislative Staff Officer, Senate
Superviseur législatif, Bureau des relations internationales et du protocole, Sénat

DE GUZMAN, Antonio (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Director General
Directeur général

DALEON III, Benjamin Paolo (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer
Chargé du protocole

SORRETA, Carlos (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent
VALDEZ, Jeffrey (Mr./M.)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

PORTUGAL

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Bureau of the
Standing Committee on Peace and International
Security, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Bureau de la
Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité,
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République PSD

LACÃO, Jorge (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on
Democracy and Human Rights, Deputy Leader
of the delegation
Bureau de la Commission permanente
de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme,
Chef adjoint de la délégation

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic
Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)

BAPTISTA LEITE, Ricardo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Health Committee
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)
Commission de la santé

ALBERNAZ, Rosa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)

MACEDO, Virgílio (Mr./M.)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

MARTINS, Hortense (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PS)

MORAIS, Teresa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

MATOS ROSA, José (Mr./M.)
Group of facilitators for Cyprus
Groupe de facilitateurs concernant Chypre

Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PSD)

ARAÚJO, José Manuel (Mr./M.)

Deputy Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic
Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée de la République

Member of the ASGP
Membre de l'ASGP

COUTO, Ana (Ms./Mme)

Protocol, Assembly of the Republic
Protocole, Assemblée de la République

FERREIRA, Rita (Ms./Mme)

Adviser Twelve Plus
Conseillère des Douze Plus

Directorate International Relations and Protocol, Assembly
of the Republic
Direction des relations internationales et du protocole,
Assemblée de la République

ISIDORO, Ana Margarida (Ms./Mme)

Adviser to the delegation and to the Twelve Plus
Conseillère de la délégation et des Douze Plus

Adviser, International Relations, Assembly of the Republic
Conseillère, Relations internationales, Assemblée de la
République

(PSD: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)

(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)

QATAR

AL-KUWARI, Issa Rabeea (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council
Vice-Président du Conseil consultatif

AL-SULAITI, Mohammed Abdulla (Mr./M.)

Member of the Advisory Council
Membre du Conseil consultatif

AL-KHAYARIN, Hadi Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-JEHANI, Nasser Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Advisory Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-KHAYARIN, Fahad Mubarak (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of the Advisory Council <i>Secrétaire général du Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-MAJID, Abdulreda (Mr./M.)	Head of the Editing and Translation Section, Advisory Council <i>Chef de la Section de l'édition et de la traduction, Conseil consultatif</i>
AL-SHAHWANI, Mesfer Hemaïd (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head, Public Relations Section <i>Chef adjoint de la Section des relations publiques</i>
AL-QADI, Abdulrahman Darwish (Mr./M.)	Legal Expert / <i>Expert juridique</i>
AL-SOWAIDI, Rashid Majid (Mr./M.)	
Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	

REPUBLIC OF KOREA - REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

CHUNG, Sye Kyun (Mr./M.)	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
OH, Jae Sae (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Health and Welfare Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i> <i>Commission de la santé et de l'aide sociale</i>
CHIN, Young (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly National Defence Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i> <i>Commission de la défense nationale</i>
SONG, Young Gil (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Strategy and Finance Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i> <i>Commission de la stratégie et des finances</i>
KIM, Se Yeon (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BP)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, du sport et du tourisme</i>
OH, Se Jung (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Science, ICT, Broadcasting and Communications Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission de la science, des technologies de l'information, de la radiodiffusion et de la communication</i>
PARK, Kyung Mee (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Education, Culture, Sports and Tourism Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la culture, du sport et du tourisme</i>
LEE, Young Deuk (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Environment and Labour Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)</i> <i>Commission de l'environnement et du travail</i>
CHONG, Jong Sup (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Land Infrastructure and Transport Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission de l'infrastructure du territoire et des transports</i>
Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
WOO, Yoon Keun (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	

KANG, Man Won (Mr./M.) Secretary to the ASGP delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director of the Asian and American Affairs Division, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division Asie et Amérique, Assemblée nationale</i>
JANG, Seung Hun (Mr./M.)	Program Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, You Jeong (Ms./Mme)	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Jeung Su (Mr./M.)	National Assembly / <i>Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Young Soo (Mr./M.)	Spokesman of the National Assembly <i>Porte-parole, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Young Geun (Mr./M.) Advisor to the ASGP delegation <i>Conseiller de la délégation de l'ASGP</i>	Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
IM, So Young (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
HWANG, Jun Yeon (Mr./M.)	Deputy Director of the Protocol Division, National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint de la Division du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHOI, Chan Kyoung (Ms./Mme)	Program Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHO, Seo Yeon (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Protocol Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHOI, Sung Hee (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
HONG, Seok Hyeun (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Jin Soo (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Gyeong Hun (Mr./M.)	Program Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
PARK, Jang Ho (Mr./M.)	Director General of Protocol Affairs, National Assembly <i>Directeur général du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
MOON, Sung Hwan (Mr./M.)	Director of the Protocol Division, National Assembly <i>Directeur de la Division du protocole, Assemblée nationale</i>
SEO, Kee Young (Ms./Mme)	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conferences Division, National Assembly <i>Directrice de la Division des conférences interparlementaires, Assemblée nationale</i>
SHIN, Dae Whan (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
WI, Jin Su (Mr./M.)	Program Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargé de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
LIM, Sung Hyun (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Conferences Division, National Assembly <i>Directrice adjointe de la Division des conférences interparlementaires, Assemblée nationale</i>
LIM, Kyu Eun (Ms./Mme)	Program Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée de programme, Assemblée nationale</i>
LEE, Jin Hee (Ms./Mme)	Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
LEE, Jae Kyong (Mr./M.)	Senior Secretary to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire principal du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
LEE, Baek Soon (Mr./M.)	Diplomatic Advisor the the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseiller diplomatique du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>

LEE, Sae Hee (Ms./Mme)

Program Officer, National Assembly
Chargée de programme, Assemblée nationale
National Assembly
Assemblée nationale

LEE, Seong Jae (Mr./M.)

LEE, Jin Hyun (Mr./M.)

Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur / Représentant permanent

PARK, Ro Byug (Mr./M.)

Consul General/Permanent Representative
Consul général/Représentant permanent

(MP: Minjoo Party /)

(BP: Bareun Party /)

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA - REPUBLIQUE DE MOLDOVA

GRECEANÎ, Zinaida (Ms./Mme)

President of the Group, Bureau of the Standing
Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance
and Trade, Leader of the Delegation
*Présidente du Groupe, Bureau de la Commission
permanente du développement durable, du
financement et du commerce, Chef de la délégation*Member of Parliament
Committee on Economy, Budget and Finance
Membre du Parlement (PSRM)
Commission de l'économie, du budget et des finances

BATRÎNCEA, Vlad (Mr./M.)

Member of Parliament
Membre du Parlement (PSRM)

ALBU, Adrian (Mr./M.)

Adviser to Ms. Greceanîi
Conseiller de Mme Greceanîi

(PSRM: Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova / Parti des socialistes)

ROMANIA – ROUMANIE

STAN, Ioan (Mr./M.)

President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Senate
Committee for the Investigation of Abuses and Corruption-
Fighting and Petitions
Membre du Sénat (SDP)
*Commission des enquêtes sur les abus, de la lutte anti-
corruption et des pétitions*

DINICĂ, Silvia-Monica (Ms./Mme)

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
Committee on Economy, Industries and Services
Committee on Transport and Energy
Membre du Sénat (USR)
*Commission de l'économie, des industries et des services
Commission des transports et de l'énergie*

OPREA, Mario-Ovidiu (Mr./M.)

Member of the Senate
Committee for Education, Science, Youth and Sports
Committee for Public Health
Membre du Sénat (NLP)
*Membre de la Commission de l'éducation, de la science, de
la jeunesse et des sports
Commission de la santé publique*

OPREA, Dumitru (Mr./M.)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies
Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Labour and Social
Protection
Membre de la Chambre des Députés (NLP)
*Vice-Président de la Commission du travail et de la
protection sociale*

PALĂR, Ionel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Public Administration and Territorial Planning <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (NLP)</i> <i>Commission de l'administration publique et de la planification du territoire</i>
PETRIC, Octavian (Mr./M.)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Industries and Services <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des industries et des services</i>
ȘTEFĂNESCU, Eliza-Mădălina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies Committee for Human Rights, Cults and National Minorities Issues <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'homme, des cultes et des minorités nationales</i>
IONESCU, Cristina (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Legislative Department, Senate <i>Conseillère, Département législatif, Sénat</i>
BĂGNEANU, Ioana (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, General Directorate for Foreign Affairs, Chamber of Deputies <i>Conseillère, Direction générale des affaires étrangères, Chambre des Députés</i>
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Ms./Mme)	Director, External Multilateral Relations Directorate, Senate <i>Directrice, Direction des relations extérieures multilatérales, Sénat</i>

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(NLP: National Liberal Party / Parti libéral national)
(USR: Save Romania Union / Union Sauvez la Roumanie)

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - FEDERATION DE RUSSIE

UMAKHANOV, Iliyas (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Science, Education and Culture Committee <i>Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture</i>
FEDEROV, Nikolay (Mr./M.)	First Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Agricultural and Environment Committee <i>Premier Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture et de l'environnement</i>
KARELOVA, Galina (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of the Federation Social Policy Committee <i>Vice-Présidente du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission de la politique sociale</i>
TOLSTOY, Petr (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma <i>Vice-Président, Douma d'Etat (UR)</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>
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce; Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	
AFANASEVA, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation Constitution and State Building Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i> <i>Commission de la Constitution et du renforcement de l'Etat</i>
KLIMOV, Andrey (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>

<i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité</i>	<i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
PETRENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians	Social Politics Committee
<i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	<i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
	<i>Commission des politiques sociales</i>
KOSACHEV, Konstantin (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of the Federation
Member of the Executive Committee	Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee
<i>Membre du Comité exécutif</i>	<i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
	<i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
GAVRILOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma
Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs	Chairman of the Committee on Public Associations and
<i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Religious Organizations Affairs
	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (CP)</i>
	<i>Président de la Commission des associations publiques et des organisations religieuses</i>
EMELIANOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma
	First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on State Building and Legislature
	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (JR)</i>
	<i>Premier Vice-Président de la Commission du renforcement de l'Etat et du corps législatif</i>
KALASHNIKOV, Leonid (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma
	Chairman of the Committee on CIS Affairs and Euro-Asian Integration
	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (CP)</i>
	<i>Président de la Commission des affaires de la CEI et de l'intégration eurasiatique</i>
TIMOFEEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Duma
	Chairperson of the Committee on Ecology and Saving of Nature
	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (UR)</i>
	<i>Présidente de la Commission de l'écologie et de la préservation de la nature</i>
VTORYGINA, Elena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the State Duma
	Deputy Chairperson of the Committee on Women, Family and Children Affairs
	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (UR)</i>
	<i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission des femmes, de la famille et de l'enfant</i>
SLUTSKY, Leonid (Mr./M.)	Member of the State Duma
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights	Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs
<i>Bureau de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme</i>	<i>Membre, Douma d'Etat (LDPR)</i>
	<i>Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i>
MARTYNOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Council of the Federation
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	<i>Secrétaire général, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KOZHEVNIKOV, Kirill (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Council of the Federation
Personal Assistant / <i>Assistant particulier</i>	<i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
MARTYNOV, Aleksandr (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Saint Petersburg Government
	<i>Conseiller, Saint Petersburg Government</i>
MUSHKAREV, Andrey (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Saint Petersburg Government
	<i>Conseiller, Saint Petersburg Government</i>
GVICHIA, Nana (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Saint Petersburg Government
	<i>Conseiller, Saint Petersburg Government</i>
KASSURA, Evgeniy (Mr./M.)	Saint-Petersburg International Relations Department
	<i>Relations internationales de Saint-Petersbourg</i>

TULAEV, Andrey (Mr./M.)	Adviser to the Deputy Chairperson, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller du Vice-Président, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KUKARKIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KURNIKOVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Adviser, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
MERSIYANTSEVA, Miloslava (Ms./Mme)	Counselor, International Relations Department <i>Conseillère, Département des relations internationales</i>
MAKSIMOV, Boris (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
LOGUNOV, Aleksey (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Saint-Petersburg International Relations Department <i>Chef adjoint des Relations internationales de Saint-Pétersbourg</i>
ILINA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Head of Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de département, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GRIGORIEV, Evgeny (Mr./M.)	Head of the Saint-Petersburg International Relations Department <i>Chef des relations internationales de Saint-Pétersbourg</i>
BYKOV, Aleksey (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BUTAEVA, Angelika (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOUSOVA, Veronica (Ms./Mme) Interpreter, Member of the ASGP <i>Interprète, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ALEKSANDROVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Head Organizational Department of Saint-Petersburg Government <i>Chef du Département de l'organisation du Gouvernement de Saint-Pétersbourg</i>
CHAGUCHIEV, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
DOBRYSHINA, Liubov (Ms./Mme)	International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GOLOV, Gennadiy (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of Staff, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
FOLOMEEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ESIPENKO, Tatiana (Ms./Mme)	Roscongress Foundation <i>Fondation Roscongress</i>
ERMOSHIN, Pavel (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Counselor, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller principal, Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
NIKULINA, Maria (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Département des relations internationales, 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>	Head of the Division, International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>

TANICHEV, Yuri (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of Saint-Petersburg Legislative Assembly Speaker's Staff <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat du Président de l'Assemblée législative de Saint-Petersbourg</i>
SHMACHKOVA, Olga (Ms./Mme) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TREFILOV, Denis (Mr./M.)	Head of the First Vice-Speaker's Secretariat of the Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Secrétariat du Premier Vice-Président, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
UDALOVA, Natalia (Ms./Mme)	Head of the Chairperson's Secretariat of the Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Secrétariat de la Présidente, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZHURKINA, Svetlana (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Head of Saint-Petersburg International Relations, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint des relations internationales de Saint-Petersbourg, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZHOLOBOVA, Maria (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation, Secretary of the Eurasia Group <i>Secrétaire de la délégation, Secrétaire du Groupe Eurasie</i>	International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
YATSKIN, Andrey (Mr./M.)	Government's Representative at the Council of the Federation <i>Représentant du Gouvernement au Conseil de la Fédération</i>
MAKAROV, Vyacheslav (Mr./M.)	Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Saint Petersburg <i>Président de l'Assemblée législative de Saint-Petersbourg</i>
KVASNYUK, Aleksandra (Ms./Mme)	Adviser to the Deputy Chairperson of the Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère du Vice-Président du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
VASILIEV, Viktor (Ms./Mme)	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
GAMBASHIDZE, Ilya (Mr./M.) Adviser of the Group / <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Assistant of Mr. Tolstoy, State Duma <i>Assistant de M. Tolstoy, Douma d'Etat</i>
SHESTERIKOV, Yury (Mr./M.)	Governor of Saint Petersburg's Envoy <i>Envoyé du Gouverneur de Saint-Petersbourg</i>
SHEREMETEVA, Tatiana (Ms./Mme)	Roscongress Foundation <i>Fondation Roscongress</i>
PETRENKO, Andrey (Mr./M.)	Head of the Financial Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Département des finances, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
PARUZIN, Nikolay (Mr./M.)	Head of the International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
PARFENOVA, Maria (Ms./Mme)	Saint-Petersburg International Relations Department, Council of the Federation <i>Département des relations internationales de Saint-Petersbourg, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KIFELI, Igor (Mr./M.)	Expert, Council of the Federation <i>Expert, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ALEXEEV, Alexandr (Mr./M.)	Expert, Council of the Federation <i>Expert, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZINCHENKO, Olga (Ms./Mme)	Expert, Council of the Federation <i>Expert, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
OSOKIN, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Council of the Federation <i>Conseil de la Fédération</i>

KHODYREV, Oleg (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Committee for Foreign Relations, Council of Federation <i>Conseiller, Commission des relations étrangères, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
AKULOV, Viktor (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
POPOV, Valery (Mr./M.)	Head of IT Department of the Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Département de l'informatique, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
RASKLADKA, Artem (Mr./M.)	Roscongress Foundation <i>Fondation Roscongress</i>
SHCHERBAKOV, Stanislav (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseiller, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SHCHERBAKOV, Lev (Mr./M.)	Deputy Head of the Secretariat, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint du Secrétariat, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZOLOTOREVA, Irina (Ms./Mme)	Advisor, Council of the Federation <i>Conseillère, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
BELOVA, Yulia (Ms./Mme)	State Duma <i>Douma d'Etat</i>
Interpreater / <i>Interprète</i>	
PASHKOV, Mikhail (Mr./M.)	Head of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Department, State Duma <i>Chef du Département de la coopération interparlementaire, Douma d'Etat</i>
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
STAVITSKY, Valery (Mr./M.)	Senior Consultant of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Department, State Duma <i>Consultant principal du Département de la coopération interparlementaire, Douma d'Etat</i>
Secretary to the State Duma delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation de la Douma d'Etat</i>	
USTINOV, Maksim (Mr./M.)	Head of the Bilateral International Cooperation Division, State Duma <i>Chef de la Division de la coopération internationale bilatérale, Douma d'Etat</i>
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
YAKOVLEVA, Marina (Ms./Mme)	Senior Adviser of the Interparliamentary Cooperation Department, State Duma <i>Conseillère principale du Département de la coopération interparlementaire, Douma d'Etat</i>
Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
SHAMAKHOV, Vladimir (Mr./M.)	Expert, Council of the Federation <i>Expert, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
SEMIKIN, Valery (Mr./M.)	Head of the Administration Department of the Council of the Federation <i>Chef du Département de l'administration, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ROSHIN, Evgeny (Mr./M.)	Expert, Council of the Federation <i>Expert, Conseil de la Fédération</i>

(UR: United Russia / Russie unifiée)

(CP: Communist Party / Parti communiste)

(JR: Just Russia / Russie juste)

(LDPR: Liberal Democratic Party of Russia / Parti libéral démocrate de la Russie)

RWANDA

GAKUBA, Jeanne D'arc (Ms./Mme)	Deputy Speaker of the Senate <i>Vice-Présidente du Sénat (FPR Inkotanyi)</i>
Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation</i>	
CYITATIRE, Sosthene (Mr./M.)	Clerk to the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	

(FPR Inkotanyi: Rwandan Patriotic Front Inkotanyi / Front patriotique rwandais)

SAMOA

TAMAPUA, Lenatai Victor Faafoi (Mr./M.)	Member of the Legislative Assembly Associate Minister for Ministry of Justice <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (HRPP)</i> <i>Ministre associé du Ministère de la justice</i>
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(HRPP: Human Rights Protection Party / Parti pour la protection des droits de l'homme)

SAN MARINO - SAINT-MARIN

TOMASSONI, Mirco (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, Grand Conseil général (SSD)</i>
AMICI, Margherita (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général (RF)</i>
FORCELLINI, Davide (Mr./M.)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général (RETE)</i>
MULARONI, Mariella (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Great and General Council <i>Membre, Grand Conseil général (PDC)</i>
MARFORI, Lucia (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Official, Great and General Council <i>Fonctionnaire, Grand Conseil général</i>

(SSD: Socialist Democratic Left / Gauche socialiste démocratique)
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party / Parti chrétien démocratique)
(RETE: Movimento Civico RETE)
(RF: Repubblica Futura)

SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

ALALSHEIKH, Abdulah (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Consultative Council <i>Président du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHELAISSI, Hoda (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALBADI, Fahad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALHAIZAN, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALKHATHLAN, Saleh (Mr./M.) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the Consultative Council <i>Membre du Conseil consultatif</i>
ALMADHI, Amr (Mr./M.)	Protocol Manager, Consultative Council <i>Directeur du protocole, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALBRAHIM, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Protocol, Consultative Council <i>Protocole, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALMANSOUR, Khalid (Mr./M.)	Adviser, Consultative Council <i>Conseiller, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALMARSHAD, Fahad (Mr./M.)	Protocol, Consultative Council <i>Protocole, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSAUD, Turki (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALRASHED, Waleed (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Consultative Council <i>Secrétaire, Conseil consultatif</i>
ALSAEED, Anas (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	
SOSNOVSKY, Boris (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

SERBIA – SERBIE

GOJKOVIC, Maja (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Culture and Information Committee Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of the Child <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale (SNS)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission de la culture et de l'information</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des droits de l'enfant</i>
BOGOSAVLJEVIC BO'KOVIC, Snezana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Culture and Information Committee Environmental Protection Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SPS)</i> <i>Commission de la culture et de l'information</i> <i>Commission de la protection de l'environnement</i>
GRUJIC, Mladen (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly European Integration Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission de l'intégration européenne</i>
JERKOV, Aleksandra (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Education, Science, Technological Development and the Information Society <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PD)</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la science, du développement technologique et de la société de l'information</i>
MIJATOVIC, Milorad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on Finance, State Budget and Control of Public Spending <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SDPS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des finances, du budget d'Etat et du contrôle des dépenses publiques</i>
MIJATOVIC, Jelena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on the Economy, Regional Development, Trade, Tourism and Energy Committee on Kosovo-Metohija Committee on the Rights of the Child <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SNS)</i> <i>Commission de l'économie, du développement régional, du commerce, du tourisme et de l'énergie</i> <i>Commission du Kosovo-Metohija</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'enfant</i>
RASKOVIC IVIC, Sanda (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Committee on the Rights of the Child <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSS)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i> <i>Commission des droits de l'enfant</i>
BULAJIC, Svetislava (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale, Assemblée nationale</i>
DJURASINOVIC RADOJEVIC, Dragana (Ms./Mme)	Advisor to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Conseillère de la Présidente, Assemblée nationale</i>
FILIPOVIC, Vladimir (Mr./M.) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of the Foreign Affairs Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des affaires étrangères, Assemblée nationale</i>

STEVANOVIĆ, Dina (Ms./Mme)
 Interpreter / *Interprète*
 DRAKULIĆ-PRIIĆ, Dragana (Ms./Mme)
 Interpreter / *Interprète*
 STOJKOVIĆ, Dragan (Mr./M.)
 Security Officer / *Agent de sécurité*
 TERZIĆ, Slavenko (Mr./M.)
 Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent
 STAMENKOVIĆ, Ivanka (Ms./Mme)
 Diplomat / *Diplomate*
 PAVLOVIĆ, Snezana (Ms./Mme)
 Diplomat / *Diplomate*

(SNS: Serbian Progressive Party / Parti progressiste serbe)
 (SPS: Socialist Party of Serbia / Parti socialiste serbe)
 (SDPS: Social Democratic Party of Serbia / Parti social-démocrate serbe)
 (PD: Democratic Party / Parti démocrate)
 (MSS: Movement for Serbia's Salvation / Mouvement pour le salut de la Serbie)

SEYCHELLES

PILLAY, Patrick (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (LDS)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de la vérité et de la réconciliation</i>
DECOMMARMOND, Charles (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Finance and Public Accounts Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission des finances et des comptes publics</i>
DELETOURDIE, Jany (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Women Parliamentarians Anti-Victimisation Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (LDS)</i> <i>Commission des femmes parlementaires</i> <i>Commission d'anti-victimisation</i>
WILLIAM, Waven (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly International Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales</i>
ISAAC, Tania (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the Delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Deputy Clerk to National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ROMAIN, Terry (Mr./M.) Advisor to the Group / <i>Conseiller du Groupe</i>	Personal Assistant to the Speaker, National Assembly <i>Assistant particulier du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>

(LDS: Seychelles Democratic Alliance / Union démocratique seychelloise)
 (PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR

TEO, Ser Luck (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i>
MOHAMAD, Zaqy (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i>
YAM, Alex (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i>
QUAH, Anne (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Senior Assistant Clerk, Parliament <i>Greffière assistante principale, Parlement</i>

(PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)

SLOVAKIA – SLOVAQUIE

DANKO, Andrej (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Council <i>Président du Conseil national</i>
CIZ, Miroslav (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council Mandate and Immunity Committee Culture and Media Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (SMER)</i> <i>Commission des mandats et immunités</i> <i>Commission de la culture et des médias</i>
PCOLINSKA, Adriana (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council Incompatibility of Functions Committee Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (SMER)</i> <i>Commission de l'incompatibilité des fonctions</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
GUSPAN, Daniel (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of the Chancellery of the National Council <i>Chef de la Chancellerie du Conseil national</i>
LISANSKY, Marek (Mr./M.)	Advisor to the Speaker, National Council <i>Conseiller du Président, Conseil national</i>
PRIPUTEN, Peter (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
TESLIAR, Michal (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
POIKANSOVA NEDBALOVA, Martina (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
PACEK, Maxim (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
CISAR, Augustin (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
VERNICEK, Tomas (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
PAVLIK, Radovan (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
MIHOK, Branislav (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
JURICKOVIC, Peter (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
JANKO, Ivan (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	
BUBLINEC, Jaroslav (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

SLOVENIA – SLOVENIE

TAŠNER VATOVEC, Matej (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions, Leader of the Delegation <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient,</i> <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly Chair of the Commission for Rules of Procedure Committee on Foreign Policy Committee on Justice <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (L)</i> <i>Commission de la politique étrangère</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i>
DIMIC, Iva (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Deputy Chair of the Committee on Justice Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Food Committee on Labour, Family, Social Policy and Disability

	<i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NSi)</i> <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la justice</i> <i>Commission de l'agriculture, des forêts et de l'alimentation</i> <i>Commission du travail, de la famille, de la politique sociale et de l'invalidité</i>
KOTNIK, Irena (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Commission for the National Communities Committee on Education, Science, Sport and Youth Committee on Justice <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PMC)</i> <i>Commission des communautés nationales</i> <i>Commission de l'éducation, de la science, du sport et de la jeunesse</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i>
PANDEV, Tanja (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of International Relations Department, National Assembly <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
(L: The Left / La Gauche) (NSi: New Slovenia-Christian Democrats / Nouvelle Slovénie - Parti chrétien-démocrate) (PMC: Party of Modern Centre / Parti du centre moderne)	

SOMALIA – SOMALIE

MOHAMUD HAID, Said Mohamed (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>
FARAH, Abdo Mah (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i>
MOHAMED, Mohamed Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of the People <i>Membre de la Chambre du Peuple</i>

SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD

MODISE, Thandi (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces <i>Présidente du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
BOROTO, Mmatlala (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly International Relations Committee House Chairperson <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i> <i>Commission des relations internationales</i> <i>Présidente de la Chambre</i>
DLAKUDE, Dorris (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
MNGUNI, Pumzile (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
MOKOENA, Lehlohonolo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (EFF)</i>
WATERS, Michael (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)</i>
MAKUE, Edwin (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council of Provinces <i>Membre du Conseil national des provinces (ANC)</i>
MONNAKGOTLA, Roseline (Ms./Mme)	Researcher, Parliament <i>Chercheuse, Parlement</i>
GCWABE, Zingisa (Ms./Mme)	Operations Officer, Parliament <i>Responsable des opérations, Parlement</i>
MUNDELL, Ian (Mr./M.)	Protocol Liaison Officer, Parliament <i>Chargé de liaison au Bureau du protocole, Parlement</i>
PAULSE, Cheryl-Anne (Ms./Mme)	Acting Team Leader, Parliament <i>Responsable d'équipe a.i., Parlement</i>

SITHOLE, Dumisani Job (Mr./M.)
Advisor of the Group / *Conseiller du Groupe*
TYAWA, Penelope (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
RAMOSANA, Florence (Ms./Mme)
MALEKANE, Eunice (Ms./Mme)
MOTHAPO, Moloto (Mr./M.)

Advisor, Parliament
Conseiller, Parlement
Acting Secretary to Parliament,
Secrétaire a.i, Parlement
Secretary / *Secrétaire*
Secretary / *Secrétaire*
Parliamentary Spokesperson
Porte-parole parlementaire

SIBANDA-THUSI, Maria Nomasonto (Ms./Mme)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadrice/Représentante permanente
MKHONZA, Phindile Wilhemina (Ms./Mme)
Embassy Staff / *Secrétariat de l'Ambassade*

(ANC: African National Congress / Congrès national africain)
(DA: Democratic Alliance / Gauche démocratique)
(EFF: Economic Freedom Front / Front économique de la liberté)

SPAIN – ESPAGNE

ECHANIZ, José Ignacio (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation
TORRES MORA, José A. (Mr./M.)
MUÑOZ, Ángeles (Ms./Mme)

Member of the Congress of Deputies
Membre, Congrès des Députés (PP)

Member of the Senate / *Membre du Sénat*
Member of the Senate
Deputy Spokeswoman of the Popular Parliamentary
Group
Membre du Sénat (PP)
Porte-parole adjointe du Groupe parlementaire populaire

GARCÍA-TIZÓN, Arturo (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies
President of the Economy, Industry and Competivity
Committee
Membre, Congrès des Députés (PP)
*Président de la Commission de l'économie, de l'industrie
et de la compétitivité*

GARCÍA, Joaquim María (Mr./M.)

Member of the Congress of Deputies
Membre, Congrès des Députés
Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire générale adjointe, Sénat
Adviser, Congress of Deputies
Conseillère, Congrès des Députés
Congress of Deputies
Congrès des Députés

ALVAREZ, Ana (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
BOYRA, Helena (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*
GÓMEZ-BERNARDO, Teresa (Ms./Mme)
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation
Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation

(PP: People's Party / Parti populaire)

SRI LANKA

JAYASURIYA, Karunaratne (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation
Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation

Speaker of Parliament
Chairman of the Committee of Selection
Chairman of the Committee on Standing Orders
Chairman of the Committee on High Posts
Président du Parlement (UNP)
Président du Comité de sélection
Président de la Commission du règlement
Président de la Commission des postes de haut niveau
Member of Parliament
Chairman of the Select Committee of Parliament to look
into and report on the possibility of enabling Sri Lankans

ATUKORALE, Thalatha (Ms./Mme)

	employed overseas to exercise their franchise in future elections and matters incidental thereto <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i> <i>Présidente du Comité restreint pour l'examen de la possibilité pour les Srilankais travaillant à l'étranger d'exercer leur droit de vote</i> Member of Parliament Chairman of the Sectoral Oversight Committee on Reconciliation and North & East Reconstruction Committee on High Posts Committee on Public Enterprises <i>Membre du Parlement (ITAK)</i> <i>Président de la Commission sectorielle de surveillance de réconciliation et reconstruction dans le nord et l'est</i> <i>Commission des postes de haut niveau</i> <i>Commission des entreprises publiques</i>
SENATHIRAJAH, Mavai (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament Sectoral Oversight Committee on Economic Development Sectoral Oversight Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Heritage Sectoral Oversight Committee on Energy <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i> <i>Commission sectorielle du développement économique</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de surveillance des jeunes, des sports, des arts et du patrimoine</i> <i>Commission sectorielle de l'énergie</i>
SENEWIRATNE, Lakshman (Mr./M.)	Secretary General of Parliament, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i>
DASANAYAKE, Dhammika (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Chief of Protocol, Parliament <i>Chef du protocole, Parlement</i>
KUMARASINGHE, Upali (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Secretary General <i>Secrétaire du Secrétaire général</i>
DASANAYE, Salini (Ms./Mme)	Private Secretary / <i>Secrétaire particulière</i>
SENEWIRATNE, Isabel (Ms./Mme)	
ARACH CHILLAGE, Nishanta (Mr./M.) Security Officer / <i>Agent de sécurité</i>	
WEERASINGHE, Saman (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
WARUNA, Dulmith (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
PRIMAL LASATH ANUPAMA, Fernando (Mr./M.) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</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

AHMED OMER, Ibrahim (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 (NCP)</i>
ELAMIN KHALIFA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)	Deputy Speaker of the Council of States <i>Vice-Président, Conseils des Etats (PC)</i>
ALI IDRIS ALI, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Legal and Justice Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DPES)</i> <i>Commission de la justice et des questions juridiques</i>

ALI NIMIR, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NCP)</i>
HUSSAIN ADAM, Elamin (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 Deputy Chair of the Economic Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NUP) Vice-Président de la Commission de l'économie</i>
HAI HASSAN, Mathapa (Ms./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of the National Assembly Legal and Justice Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Dem UP) Commission de la justice et des questions juridiques</i>
OSMAN HASSAN RIZIG, Hassan (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RNM)</i>
AL-MANSOUR, Al-Fatih Izzeldin (Mr./M.) Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NZ)</i>
ABDALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
YAGOUP, Mohamed (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Council of States <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil des Etats</i>
ALI AHMED, Altiab (Mr./M.)	Executive Director of the Speaker's Office , National Assembly <i>Directeur exécutif du Bureau du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
ASHALLA, Ayman (Mr./M.)	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
FADUL ABDELGADIR, Thana (Ms./Mme) Executive Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Executive Director, National Assembly <i>Directrice exécutive, Assemblée nationale</i>
SAAD ELMAHI, Elmahi (Mr./M.)	Secretary to the Speaker , National Assembly <i>Secrétaire du Président, Assemblée nationale</i>
YOUSIF ELTAYEB, Nadir (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
ADAM, Ahmed (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
(NCP: National Congress Party / Parti du Congrès national)	
(PC: Popular Congress Party / Congrès populaire)	
(DPES: Democratic Party of Eastern Sudan / Parti démocratique du Soudan oriental)	
(NUP: UMMA Party for Reform and Development / Parti OUMMA pour les réformes et le développement)	
(Dem UP: Democratic Unionist Party – the original / Parti démocratique unioniste)	
(RNM: Reform Now Movement)	

SURINAME

BOUVA, Melvin (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>	Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Chairman of the Ministry of Natural Resources Committee <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP) Président de la Commission du Ministère des ressources naturelles</i>
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RAMSAHAI, Rajiv (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee of the Ministry of Public Works, Sport and Youth Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NDP)</i> <i>Commission du Ministère des travaux publics, du sport et de la jeunesse</i>
VORSWIJK, Dinotha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Trade, Industry and Tourism <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ABOP)</i> <i>Commission du Ministère des affaires intérieures, du commerce, de l'industrie et du tourisme</i>
RAMDASS, Agatha (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe, Assemblée nationale</i>

(NDP: National Democratic Party / Parti national démocratique)
(ABOP)

SWAZILAND

MSIBI, Themba Johan (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée</i>
KHUMALO, Marwick Thanduk'khanya (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Assembly Chair, Finance Committee, <i>Membre de l'Assemblée</i>
DLAMINI, Ndvuna Sipho (Mr./M.)	Clerk of Parliament, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>

SWEDEN – SUEDE

ÖRNFJÄDER, Krister (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of Parliament / Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
AVSAN, Anti (Mr./M.) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of Parliament / Committee on Justice <i>Membre du Parlement (M)</i> <i>Commission de la justice</i>
GREEN, Monica (Ms./Mme) Committee to Promote Respect for IHL <i>Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du DIH</i>	Member of Parliament / Committee on Finance <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des finances</i>
LINDBERG, Teres (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 Parliament Committee on Transport and Communications <i>Membre du Parlement (SDP)</i> <i>Commission des transports et des communications</i>
LUNDSTEDT, Helena (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseillère internationale, Parlement</i>
SONDÉN, Björn (Mr./M.) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	International Adviser, Parliament <i>Conseiller international, Parlement</i>

(SDP: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)
(M: Moderate Party / Parti modéré)

SWITZERLAND – SUISSE

KIENER NELLEN, Margret (Ms./Mme) President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Présidente du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council Chair of the Finance Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national (PS) Présidente de la Commission des finances</i>
CARONI, Andrea (Mr./M.) Deputy Leader of the delegation <i>Chef adjoint de la délégation</i>	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (FDP/PLR)</i>
HÊCHE, Claude (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (PS)</i>
LOMBARDI, Filippo (Mr./M.)	Member of the Council of States Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (CVP/PDC) Vice-Président de la Commission de la politique extérieure</i>
AMAUDRUZ, Céline (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (SVP/UDC)</i>
LOHR, Christian (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (CVP/PDC)</i>
MÜRI, Felix (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>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) Président, Commission de la science, de l'éducation et de la culture (CSEC-NR)</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>
WILDI-BALLABIO, Elena (Ms./Mme) Deputy Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire suppléante de la délégation</i>	Secretariat, International Relations <i>Secrétariat, relations internationales</i>
BULLIARD, Valentine (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to Mr. Lohr / <i>Assistante de M. Lohr</i>
RAMILOVA, Alla (Ms./Mme)	Advisor to Mr. Lombardi / <i>Conseillère de M. Lombardi</i>
KULL, Roger (Mr./M.) Consul General / <i>Consul général</i>	
SCHÜRCH, Frank (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
(PS: Socialist Party / Parti socialiste)	
(FDP/PLR: The Liberals / Les Libéraux-Radicaux)	
(CVP/PDC: Christian Democratic People's Party / Parti démocrate-chrétien)	
(SVP/UDC: Swiss People's Party / Union démocratique du centre)	

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

SABBAGH, Hammouda (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>
BAGDACHE, Ammar (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chairman of the Financial Laws Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (SCP) Président de la Commission du droit financier</i>
ALZEBAK, Atef (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>

AL DAHMOUCH, Abdul Salam (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chairman of the Committee of Education and Scientific Research <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>
DIB, Fadia (Ms./Mme) 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 People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
HASAN, Kasim (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Member of the Budget Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i> <i>Membre de la Commission du budget</i>
OJIL, Mohammad (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Deputy chairman of the of Youth and Sport Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i>
MERJANEH, Boutros (Mr./M.)	Member of the People's Assembly Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (Ind)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
SANKAR, Salam (Ms./Mme) Adviser / <i>Conseillère</i>	Member of the People's Assembly Chairwoman of the Social Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple (BAP)</i> <i>Présidente de la Commission des affaires sociales</i>
DIAB, Abdul Azim (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Public Relations Director, People's Assembly <i>Directeur des relations publiques, Assemblée du Peuple</i>
SHAIKHO, Mhd. Yahya (Mr./M.)	Protocol, People's Assembly <i>Protocole, Assemblée du Peuple</i>
MUSTAFA ALABEAD, Nagy (Mr./M.) Press / <i>Presse</i> (Ind: Independent / <i>Indépendant</i>) (BAP: Baath Arab Party / <i>Parti Baath arabe</i>) (SCP: Syrian Communist Party / <i>Parti communiste syrien</i>)	

TAJIKISTAN - TADJIKISTAN

UBAIDULLOEV, Mahmadsaid (Mr./M.) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDPT)</i>
MAHMUDOVI, Sohbnazar (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDPT)</i>
RAHMONOVA, Nargis (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Committee to Ensure the Constitutional Foundations, Rights and Freedoms of Man, Citizen and Law <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDPT)</i> <i>Commission pour l'assurance de fondations constitutionnelles, les droits et les libertés de l'homme, du citoyen et des lois</i>
TABAROV, Khabibullo (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PDPT)</i>
ZUHURZODA, Khurshed (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KHOLMUHAMMADZODA, Azizmuhammad (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Chairman of the Committee on Control Regulation and the Organization of Work <i>Membre de la Chambre des représentants (PDPT)</i> <i>Président de la Commission du contrôle des réglementations et de l'organisation du travail</i>

(PDPT: People's Democratic Party of Tajikistan, / Parti démocratique populaire du Tadjikistan)

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>
SAMPATISIRI, Bilaibhan (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Présidente de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères</i>
WASINONDH, Kitti (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly First Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Premier Vice-Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères</i>
SIRIVEJCHAPUN, Suwannee (Ms./Mme) Bureau of Women Parliamentarians <i>Bureau des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social, Children, Youth, Women, the Elderly, the Disabled and the Underprivileged Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Deuxième Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente des affaires sociales, de l'enfant, de la jeunesse, de la femme, des aînés, des invalides et des défavorisés</i>
SUWANMONGKOL, Anusart (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 National Legislative Assembly Secretary to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Secrétaire de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères</i>
BUNSUMPUN, Prasert (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly First Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Energy <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Premier Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'énergie</i>
ARAMWATTNANONT, Poj (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Second Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Labour <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Deuxième Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du commerce, de l'industrie et du travail</i>
BOONYASATID, Witawad (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Third Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Education and Sports <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Troisième Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de l'éducation et des sports</i>
SWANGKARN, Somchai (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Third Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative Troisième Vice-Président de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères</i>
THONGLEK, Gen. Nipat (Mr./M.) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the National Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

PIENVEJ, Sorasak (Mr./M.)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
PUTORNJAI, La-or (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
PHETCHAREON, Pornpith (Ms./Mme)
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*
TESTHOMSAP, Sirawasa (Ms./Mme)
Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire de la délégation

BAMRUNGPON, Tanukom (Mr./M.)
Assistant Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire assistante de la délégation

THONGSAMRIT, Pилanthona (Ms./Mme)
Assistant Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire assistante de la délégation
KANKAEW, Supisra (Ms./Mme)
Assistant Secretary to the delegation
Secrétaire assistante de la délégation
RAKSAPOLMUANG, Pathomporn (Ms./Mme)
Interpreter / *Interprète*

SIRIWONG, Kanjanat (Ms./Mme)
Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire assistante de la délégation
ISSARIYAPRUET, Pattrapong (Mr./M.)
Assistant Secretary to the Delegation
Secrétaire assistante de la délégation
KANCHANACHITRA, Nontigorn (Mr./M.)

LEELANOND, Kanteera (Ms./Mme)

LICKANAJULE, Somsakul (Ms./Mme)

SATARNTRAIPOPE, Pannita (Ms./Mme)

HARNPOL, Poj (Mr./M.)
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent

Membre de l'Assemblée nationale législative
Commission permanente des affaires étrangères
Secretary General, House of Representatives
Secrétaire général, Chambre des Représentants
Deputy Secretary General, Senate
Secrétaire général adjoint, Sénat
Deputy Secretary General, House of Representatives
Secrétaire général adjoint, Chambre des Représentants
Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary
Organizations, House of Representatives
Directrice du Bureau des Organisations
interparlementaires, Chambre des Représentants
Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Division,
House of Representatives
Directeur de la Division de l'Union interparlementaire,
Chambre des Représentants

Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé principal des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Parliament Official Committee, Senate
Fonctionnaire, Sénat
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Foreign Affairs Officer, House of Representatives
Chargé des affaires étrangères, Chambre des
Représentants
Director of Bureau of Central Administration, Senate
Directeur du Bureau de l'administration centrale, Sénat

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE

XHAFERI, Talat (Mr./M.)
President of the Group, Member of Governing Council,
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
NIKOLOVA, Juliana (Ms./Mme)
MITRESKI, Jovan (Mr./M.)
ISMAILI, Rexhail (Mr./M.)

Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic
Président de l'Assemblée de la République (DUI)
Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (LDP)
Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (SDSM)
Member of the Assembly of the Republic
Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (DUI)

AMATI, Muarem (Mr./M.)	Security Officer, Assembly of the Republic <i>Agent de sécurité, Assemblée de la République</i>
DRNDAR, Besa (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Interpreter, Assembly of the Republic <i>Interprète, Assemblée de la République</i>
IVANOVA, Cvetanka (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Assembly of the Republic <i>Secrétaire général, Assemblée de la République</i>
OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Delegation to the IPU	Head of Division, Assembly of the Republic <i>Chef de division, Assemblée de la République</i>
SELMANI, Ilir (Mr./M.) Adviser <i>Conseiller</i>	State Adviser, Head of the Cabinet of the President of the Assembly, Assembly of the Republic <i>Conseiller d'Etat, Chef du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée, Assemblée de la République</i>
KARAJANOV, Goce (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
(DUI: Democratic Union for Integration / Union démocratique pour l'intégration)	
(LDP: Liberal Democratic Party / Parti démocratique libéral)	
(SDSM: Social Democratic Union of Macedonia / social-démocrate de Macédoine)	

TIMOR-LESTE

DA COSTA, Adérito (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Parliament Commission on Foreign Affairs, Defence and National Security <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT) Commission des affaires étrangères, de la défense et de la sécurité nationale</i>
DA SILVA GUSMÃO, Maria Teresa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Parliament Commission of Economy and Development <i>Membre du Parlement national (CNRT) Commission de l'économie et du développement</i>
BELO, Mateus (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary-General, National Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement national</i>
TEIXEIRA DE LENCASTRE, Bruno (Mr./M.)	Principal Adviser to the President, National Parliament <i>Conseiller principal du Président du Parlement national</i>
BARROS, Danilo Norberto (Mr./M.)	Technical Adviser, National Parliament <i>Conseiller technique, Parlement national</i>
(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 (Ms./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 (UNIR)</i>
LAWSON-BANKU, Boévi Patrick (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)</i>
APEVON, Kokou Dodji (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly, Law Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, 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>
AGBOH, Delah (Mr./M.)	Communication Director <i>Directeur de la communication</i>
LABDIEDO, Manlengue (Mr./M.)	Director, International Cooperation <i>Directeur de la Coopération internationale</i>
KPANGBALA, Pabanam (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

GOMINA, Yassimiou (Mr./M.)

Aide de camp

(UNIR: Union for the Republic / Union pour la République)

(ANC: National Alliance for Change / Alliance nationale pour le changement)

(Arc-en-Ciel: Rainbow Coalition / Coalition Arc-en-ciel)

TUNISIA – TUNISIE

NABLI, Lotfi (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives

Assessor to the Speaker of the Assembly

*Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple**Assesneur du Président de l'Assemblée*

KSAMTINI, Soulef (Ms./Mme)

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

Bureau des femmes parlementaires

Member of the Assembly of People's Representatives

Membre de l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple

(E)

AOUAITI, Najoua (Ms./Mme)

Adviser to the delegation

Conseillère de la délégation

Parliamentary Adviser, IPU Desk

*Conseillère parlementaire chargée du dossier de l'UIP à**l'Assemblée des représentants du peuple*

(E: Ennahdha)

TURKEY - TURQUIE

KAHRAMAN, Ismail (Mr./M.)

Leader of the Delegation

Chef de la délégation

Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Président, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

AYATA, Sencer (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)

CAKIR, Coskun (Mr./M.)

President of the Group/ *Président du Groupe*

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

GIZLIGIDER, Ebubekir (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)***KAVCIOĞLU, Sahap (Mr./M.)**

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Committee on Budget and Planning

*Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)**Commission du budget et du plan*

SERT, Hasan (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

CERITOGU KURT, Lutfiye Ilksen (Mrs./Mme)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (PJD)

ATICI, Aytug (Mr./M.)

Member of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Membre, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie (CHP)

BAHCEKAPILI, Ayse Nur (Ms./Mme)

Adviser / *Conseillère*

Deputy Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Vice-Présidente de la Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

HAMZACEBI, Mehmet Akif (Mr./M.)

Adviser / *Conseiller*

Deputy Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Vice-Président de la Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

KUMBUZOGLU, Mehmet Ali (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Secrétaire général, Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

BAYKAL, Emine Derya (Ms./Mme)

Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Chargé du protocole, Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

ÖZTÜRK, Necati (Mr./M.)

Deputy Director, Grand National Assembly of Turkey

Directeur adjoint, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie

TUNEY, Cemalettin (Mr./M.)

Head of Department, Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Chef de département, Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

BAYDAR, Mustafa Fatih (Mr./M.)

Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey

*Chargé du protocole, Grande Assemblée nationale de**Turquie*

BAHCIVAN, Fatih (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Chargé du protocole, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ARABA, Mustafa (Mr./M.)	Protocol Officer, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Chargé du protocole, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
AKSELI, Saren (Ms./Mme)	Secretary, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
ONAL, Elif Esra (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Assistant to the Secretary General, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Assistante du Secrétaire général, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
GÜNER, Mümtaz (Mr./M.)	Secretary, Grand National Assembly of Turkey <i>Secrétaire, Grande Assemblée nationale de Turquie</i>
BENSAN, Kutlay (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SEZGI, Pinar (Ms./Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
TAMER, Mehmet (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
KARAMAHMUT, Alican (Mr./M.) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
DIRIOZ, Huseyin (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
(PJD: Justice and Development Party / Parti de la justice et du développement)	
(CHP: Republican's People Party / Parti populaire républicain)	

TURKMENISTAN

NURBERDIYEVA, Akja (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation / <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Chairperson of the Mejlis <i>Présidente de l'Assemblée</i>
MAMMEDOVA, Gulshat (Ms./Mme)	Vice-Chairperson of the Mejlis <i>Vice Présidente de l'Assemblée</i>
BASHIMOV, Atajan (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mejlis / Chairperson of the Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Président de la Commission des relations internationales et interparlementaires</i>
HALBAYEVA, Joragul (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Mejlis / Committee on Social Issues <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Commission des affaires sociales</i>
HUDAYNAZAROV, Pirnazar (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mejlis Chairperson of the Committee on Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Président de la Commission de la protection des droits de l'homme et des libertés</i>
KOMEKOV, Nury (Mr./M.)	Member of the Mejlis Committee on International and Inter-Parliamentary Relations <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Commission des relations internationales et interparlementaires</i>
TAGANDURDYEVA, Gulshirin (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Mejlis / Committee on Environment Protection, Ecology and Agro-Industrial Complex <i>Membre de l'Assemblée Commission de la protection de l'environnement, de l'écologie et du complexe agro-industriel</i>

TAYLYYEV, Atamyrat (Mr./M.) Member of the Mejlis / Chairperson of the Committee on Social Issues
Membre de l'Assemblée
Président de la Commission des affaires sociales

TUVALU

TAUTELEIMALAE TAUSI, Otinielu (Mr./M.) Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the Delegation *Président du Parlement*
Chef de la délégation

PUGA SEMELI, Andrew (Mr./M.) Acting Clerk of Parliament / *Greffier a.i. du Parlement*

UGANDA - OUGANDA

ALITWALA KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms./Mme) Speaker of Parliament
Leader of the Delegation Chairperson of the Rules, Privileges and Discipline;
Chef de la délégation Chairperson of the Business Committee
Chairperson of the Appointments Committee
Présidente du Parlement (NRM)
Présidente de la Commission des règles, des privilèges et de la discipline / Présidente du Comité directeur
Présidente de la Commission des nominations

KABAGYENYI, Rose (Ms./Mme) Member of Parliament / Agriculture Committee
Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises Committee
Membre du Parlement (NRM)
Commission de l'agriculture
Commission des autorités statutaires et des entreprises d'Etat

MAGYEZI, Raphael (Mr./M.) Member of Parliament
Public Service and Local Government Committee
Human Rights Committee
Membre du Parlement (NRM)
Commission des services public et du gouvernement local
Commission des droits de l'homme

MUKODA ZABWE, Julie (Ms./Mme) Member of Parliament
Public Accounts Committee
Public Service and Local Government
Membre du Parlement (Ind)
Commission des comptes publics
Commission des services public et du gouvernement local

OSORU, Mourine (Ms./Mme) Member of Parliament
Human Rights Committee
Gender, Labour and Social Development Committee
Membre du Parlement (NRM)
Commission des des droits de l'homme
Commission de l'égalité des sexes, du travail et du développement social

MWIJUKYE, Francis (Mr./M.) Member of Parliament
Physical Infrastructure Committee
East African Community Affairs Committee
Membre du Parlement (FDC)
Commission des infrastructures physiques
Commission des affaires de la communauté de l'Afrique de l'est

SSEBAGALA, Abdul Latif Sengendo(Mr./M.) Member of Parliament
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security Deputy Chairperson of the Government Assurances Committee
Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité *Membre du Parlement (Ind)*
Vice-Président de la Commission des assurances du gouvernement

LUBOWA KIBIRIGE, Jane (Ms./Mme) Secretary, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk to Parliament, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général, Parlement</i>
WABWIRE, Paul (Mr./M.) Secretary, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Clerk, Parliament <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Parlement</i>
KATAMBA, Mohammed (Mr./M.)	Senior Information Officer <i>Chargé principal de l'information</i>
KANGO, Moses (Mr./M.)	ICT Officer <i>Responsable TIC</i>
DEOGRATIOUS, Okwalinga (Mr./M.) Aide de camp to the Speaker <i>Aide de camp de la Présidente</i>	
BUSIKU, Peter (Mr./M.)	Personal Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétairerie particulier de la Présidente</i>
KIGGUNDU, Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director, Budget Department <i>Directeur adjoint du département du budget</i>
TUMUKWASIBWE, Robert (Mr./M.)	Assistant Director; Clerks <i>Directeur adjoint des greffiers</i>
KABOGOZA, Phillip (Mr./M.)	Senior Protocol Officer <i>Chargé principal du protocole</i>
OKEMA, Leonard (Mr./M.)	Principal Clerk Assistant, Parliament <i>Greffier principal adjoint, Parlement</i>
AGARA OLWA, Johnson (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
TUSIIME KASAIJA, Violet (Ms./Mme) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
OKODI, Susan (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomat</i>	
(NRM: National Resistance Movement / Mouvement de la résistance nationale) (Ind: Independent / Indépendant) (FDC: Forum for Democratic Change / Forum pour un changement démocratique)	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - EMIRATS ARABES UNIS	
ALQUBAISI, Amal (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Federal National Council <i>Présidente du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALALI, Ali Jasim (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALBASTI, Afraa (Ms./Mme) Bureau of the Standing Committee on UN Affairs <i>Bureau de la Commission permanente des affaires des Nations Unies</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL HAI, Jamal (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALMEHRZI, Mohammed (Mr./M.) Committee on Middle East Questions <i>Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient</i>	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALEGHFLI, Hamad (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALREMEITHI, Saeed (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALREYAISEH, Alyaa Sulaiman (Mr./M.)	Member of the Federal National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-DHAHRI, Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Secretary General, Federal National Council <i>Secrétaire général, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>

ALHADDABI, Amal (Mr./M.)	Advisor, Office of the Speaker <i>Conseiller au Bureau de la Présidente</i>
ALKINDI, Aliya (Ms./Mme)	Executive Secretary, Office of the Speaker <i>Secrétaire exécutive au Bureau du Président</i>
GHAOUI, Patricia (Ms./Mme)	Executive Secretary, Office of the Speaker <i>Secrétaire exécutive au Bureau du Président</i>
ALSHEHHI, Abdulrahman (Mr./M.)	Head of Communication <i>Chef de la communication</i>
AL-AQILI, Ahmad (Mr./M.)	Chief Parliamentary Communication Coordinator, Federal National Council <i>Coordinateur principal des communications, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MUHAIRI, Juma (Mr./M.)	Head of Protocol Section, Federal National Council <i>Chef du protocole, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-SHEHHI, Salama (Ms./Mme)	Protocol, Federal National Council <i>Protocole, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL MARRI, Bader (Mr./M.)	Executive Protocol, Federal National Council <i>Protocole exécutif, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
AL-BLOOSHI, Hamda (Ms./Mme)	Head of Parliamentary Research Section, Federal National Council <i>Chef de la Section de la recherche parlementaire, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALZAABI, Mariam Mohamed (Ms./Mme)	Researcher / <i>Chercheuse</i>
EL-NAEIMY, Yasser (Mr./M.)	Media Speaker's Office, Federal National Council <i>Médias au Bureau de la Présidente, Conseil national de la Fédération</i>
ALMAEENI, Sara Ahmed (Mr./M.)	Media Editor / <i>Rédacteur en chef</i>
HMOUD, Mamdoh Ismail (Mr./M.)	News Editor / <i>Rédacteur aux informations</i>
ALI MANSOUR, Samy (Mr./M.)	Political Adviser <i>Conseiller politique</i>

UNITED KINGDOM - ROYAUME-UNI

EVANS, Nigel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
President of the Group, Leader of the Delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	
Rt Hon DHOLAKIA, Navnit (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (Lib Dems)</i>
MORRIS OF ABERAVON, John (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
Rt Hon CLWYD, Ann (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
CAMERON, Lisa (Ms./Mme)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (SNP)</i>
JONES, Graham (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
KAWCZYNSKI, Daniel (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
LIDDELL-GRAINGER, Ian (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
Vice-President of the Executive Committee <i>Vice-Président du Comité exécutif</i>	
EVANS, Paul (Mr./M.)	Clerk of Committees, House of Commons <i>Greffier de commissions, Chambre des Communes</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
BURTON, Simon (Mr./M.)	Reading Clerk, House of Lords <i>Chambre des Lords</i>
Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
COMMANDER, Emily (Ms./Mme)	House of Lords <i>Chambre des Lords</i>
Joint Secretary of the ASGP <i>Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	
NIMMO, Rick (Mr./M.)	Director, British IPU Group <i>Directeur, Groupe britannique de l'UIP</i>
Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	

REES, Dominique (Ms./Mme)
Deputy Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe
LIBEROTTI-HARRISON, Gabriella (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Director, British IPU Group
Directrice adjointe, Groupe britannique de l'UIP

International Project Manager, British IPU Group
Chef de projets internationaux, Groupe britannique de l'UIP

RICHTER, Anja (Ms./Mme)

International Project Manager, British IPU Group
Chef de projets internationaux, Groupe britannique de l'UIP

MOELLER, Daniel (Mr./M.)
Assistant to the ASGP Secretariat
Assistant du Secrétariat de l'ASGP

Senior Committee Assistant, House of Commons
Assistant principal de commission, Chambre des Communes

BRENTON, Jonathon (Mr./M.)
Acting Deputy Ambassador
Ambassadeur adjoint a.i.

WEBB, Elizabeth (Ms./Mme)
Diplomat / *Diplomate*

MYSLOVA, Anna (Ms./Mme)
Embassy Staff
Secrétariat de l'Ambassade

(C: Conservative Party / Parti Conservateur)
(Lib Dems: Liberal Democrats / Démocrates libéraux)
(L: Labour Party / Parti du travail)
(SNP: Scottish National Party / Parti national écossais)

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA - REPUBLIQUE-UNIE DE TANZANIE

NDUGAI, Job (Mr./M.)
Leader of delegation / *Chef de la délégation*
KIKWEMBE, Pudenciana (Ms./Mme)

Speaker of the National Assembly
Président de l'Assemblée nationale

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

HIJA, Juma (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

LYIMO, Suzan (Ms./Mme)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CHADEMA)

MCHENGERWA, Mohamed (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

SERUKAMBA, Peter (Mr./M.)

Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (CCM)

UKHOTYA, Eliufoo (Mr./M.)
Secretary of the Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

IPU Desk Coordinator, National Assembly
Coordinateur du Desk UIP, Assemblée nationale

(CCM: Revolutionary Party of Tanzania / Parti révolutionnaire de Tanzanie)
(CHADEMA: Party of Democracy and Development / Parti de la démocratie et du développement)

URUGUAY

PASSADA, Ivonne (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

Member of the Senate
Chair of the Public Health Committee
Labour Issues Committee
Education and Culture Committee
Membre du Sénat (FA)
Présidente de la Commission de la santé publique
Commission du travail
Commission de l'éducation et de la culture

HEBER, Luis Alberto (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 Senate Chair of the Administrative Affairs Committee Constitution and Legislation Committee Public Funds Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (NP)</i> <i>Président de la Commission des affaires administratives Commission de la Constitution et de la législation Commission des fonds publics</i>
MARTÍNEZ HUELMO, Ruben (Mr./M.)	Member of the Senate International Affairs Committee Constitution and Legislation Committee National Defence Committee <i>Membre du Sénat (FA)</i> <i>Commission des affaires internationales Commission de la Constitution et de la législation</i>
CARBALLO, Felipe (Mr./M.)	Member of the House of Representatives Transport, Communications and Public Works Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (FA)</i> <i>Commission des transports, des communications et des travaux publics</i>
MONTERO, José Pedro (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Senate <i>Secrétaire général, Sénat</i>
PIQUINELA, Oscar (Mr./M.) Secretary of the Group and Secretary of the GRULAC <i>Secrétaire du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	Head of International Relations <i>Chef des relations internationales</i>
GALVALISI, Carina (Ms./Mme) Assistant of the Secretariat of the Group and of the GRULAC <i>Assistante du Secrétariat du Groupe et du GRULAC</i>	Head of Department, International Relations, House of Representatives <i>Chef de département, Relations internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
RODAL, Lucía (Ms./Mme)	Assistant to Ms. Passada, Senate <i>Conseillère de Mme Passada, Sénat</i>
DELGADO, Enrique (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
FLEITAS, César (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
DI CONZA, Stefano (Mr./M.) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	
DEL-CÓ, Florencia (Ms./Mme) Embassy Staff / <i>Secrétariat de l'Ambassade</i>	
(PN: Partido Nacional / Parti national) (FA: Frente Amplio / Front élargi)	
ALISHER, Kadirov (Mr./M.), Director / <i>Directeur</i>	

UZBEKISTAN - OUZBEKISTAN

SAIDOV, Akmal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Legislative Chamber Chairman of the Committee on Democratic Institutions, NGOs and Civil Self-Government Institutes <i>Membre de la Chambre législative</i> <i>Président du Comité des institutions démocratiques, des ONG et des institutions civiles d'autoadministration</i>
VASILYEVNA, Shin Agregina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Senate Committee on International Relations, Foreign Economic Relations, Foreign Investments and Tourism

ALISHER, Kadirov (Mr./M.)

Membre du Sénat
Commission des relations internationales, des relations économiques étrangères, des investissements étrangers et du tourisme
Director / *Directeur*

VENEZUELA

SOLÓRZANO, Delsa (Mrs./Mme)
Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Leader of the Delegation
Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Chef de la délégation

FERRER, Germán (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BPS)

JABOUR, Yul (Mr./M.)
Bureau of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
Bureau de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité

TEXEIRA, Manuel (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MP)

CASTRO, Lawrence (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (VP)

MARTINEZ UBIEDA, Alejandro (Mr./M.)
Secretary of Group
Secrétaire du Groupe

MARTÍNEZ, Andrea Valentina (Ms./Mme)
Assistant to Ms. Solórzano
Assistante de Mme Sólorzano

(MUD: Democratic Unity Roundtable alliance / La Table de l'unité démocratique)
(BPS: Bloque Parlamentario Socialista)
(PCV: Communist Party of Venezuela / Parti communiste vénézuélien)
(MP: Movimiento Progresista)
(VP: Voluntad Popular)

VIET NAM

NGUYEN THI, Kim Ngan (Ms./Mme)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation

NGUYEN, Van Giau (Mr./M.)
Member of the Executive Committee
Membre du Comité exécutif

PHAN, Thanh Binh (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Chairman of the Committee on Culture, Education, Youth and Children
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Président de la Commission de la culture, de l'éducation, de la jeunesse et de l'enfant

TRAN, Van Tuy (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly /
Chairman of the Deputy's Affairs Board
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Président des affaires de la Présidence

NGUYEN, Thanh Nghi (Mr./M.)
Member of the National Assembly
Head of Kien Giang Provincial National Assembly
Membre de l'Assemblée nationale
Chef de l'Assemblée nationale de la Province de Kien

VU, Hai Ha (Mr./M.)	<i>Giang</i> Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
DUONG, Quoc Anh (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Vice-Chair, Economy Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires économiques</i>
LE, Thu Ha (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
NGUYEN, Hanh Phuc (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the National Assembly Chairman of the Office of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale</i> <i>Président du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LE, Bo Linh (Mr./M.) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy General Secretary of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint, Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Tuong Van (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Director General, Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of the National Assembly <i>Directeur général adjoint, Département des affaires étrangères, Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
TRAN, Kim Chi (Ms./Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Head of Multilateral Parliamentary Relations Division, Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of the National Assembly <i>Chef des relations multilatérales, Département des affaires étrangères, Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Thuy Linh (Mr./M.)	Foreign Affairs Department, Office of the National Assembly <i>Département des affaires étrangères, Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DUONG, Thuy Dung (Mr./M.)	Economic Affairs Department, Office of the National Assembly <i>Département de l'économie, Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN, Thanh Son (Mr./M.) Ambassador/Permanent Representative <i>Ambassadeur/Représentant permanent</i>	
LE THI, Thanh Ly (Ms./Mme) Diplomat / <i>Diplomate</i>	

ZAMBIA – ZAMBIE

MATIBINI, Patrick (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>
JERE, Getrude Piliwa Mwanza (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly Legal Affairs, Governance, Human Rights, Gender Matters and Child Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Ind)</i> <i>Commission des affaires juridiques, de la gouvernance, des droits de l'homme, des questions de genre et de l'enfance</i>
KALOBO, Pavyuma (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Committee on Youth and Sport <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (Ind)</i> <i>Commission de la jeunesse et du sport</i>
LUO, Nkandu (Ms./Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i>

MWEWA, Rogers (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Chairperson of the Committee on Information and Broadcasting Services <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PF)</i> <i>Président de la Commission de l'information et des services de diffusion</i>
KATUTA, Given (Ms./Mme) 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 National Assembly Communications, Transport, Works and Supply Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FDD)</i> <i>Commission des communications, des transports, des travaux et de l'approvisionnement</i>
MBEWE, Cecilian Nsenduluka (Ms./Mme) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CHOONGO, Doris T. (Ms./Mme)	Chief Reporter, National Assembly <i>Rapporteur en chef, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHELU, John (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
KALABA, Bridget M. (Ms./Mme)	Acting Executive Assistant to the Acting Clerk, National Assembly <i>Assistante exécutive a.i. du Secrétaire général a.i., Assemblée nationale</i>
MUSONDA, Chongo (Mr./M.)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
MONGA, Pauline (Ms./Mme)	Official, National Assembly <i>Fonctionnaire, Assemblée nationale</i>
NYIRENDA, Temwa (Mr./M.)	International Relations Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée des relations internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHILOMBO, Juliana Shoko (Ms./Mme) <i>Adviser / Conseillère</i>	
(Ind: Independent / Indépendant)	
PF: Patriotic Front / Front patriotique)	
(FDD: Forum for Democracy and Development / Forum pour la démocratie et le développement)	

ZIMBABWE

MADZONGWE, Edna (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	President of the Senate Standing Rules and Orders Committee <i>Présidente du Sénat</i> <i>Commission du règlement et de la procédure (ZANU/PF)</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 du service publique, du travail et de la protection sociale</i> <i>Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes</i>
CHAKONA, Paradzai (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i>
MACHINGURA, Raymore (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Higher and Tertiary Education Standing Committee on Information and Communications Technology, Postal and Courier Services Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF)</i>

MHLANGA, Jennifer Nomsa (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>	<i>Comité du portefeuille de l'enseignement supérieur et tertiaire / Commission des technologies de l'information et de la communication, des services postaux et de messagerie / Comité du portefeuille des affaires étrangères</i> Member of the National Assembly / Mines and Energy Committee Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ZANU/PF) Commission des mines et de l'énergie Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes</i>
MUTOMBA, William (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / Industry and Commerce Committee / Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Commission de l'industrie et du commerce Commission des affaires féminines, de l'égalité entre les sexes et du développement communautaire</i>
WADYAJENA, Mayor Justice (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly / Chairperson of the Youth Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale Président du Comité chargé de l'indigénisation et l'autonomisation des jeunes Commission de la justice et des affaires parlementaires</i>
MAKONI, Roselyn (Mr./M.)	Director in the President's Office, Senate <i>Directeur au Bureau du Président du Sénat</i>
MARIMO, Ndamuka (Mr./M.)	Director in the Clerk's Office, National Assembly <i>Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHISANGO, Rumbidzai (Ms./Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Principal External Relations Officer, National Assembly <i>Chargée principale des relations extérieures, Assemblée nationale</i>
MAVHURA, Patrick (Mr./M.) Aide to the President <i>Aide de la Présidente</i>	Senate <i>Sénat</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**ANDEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ANDIN**

DUQUE GARCÍA, Luis Fernando (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
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**ARAB PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT ARABE**

ALSULAMI, Mishal (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Président</i>
ALZAYED, Dalal (Ms./Mme)	Member <i>Membre</i>
BEZZAZ, Aziz (Mr./M.)	Member <i>Membre</i>
TALAAT, Hossam (Mr./M.)	Director of Protocol <i>Directeur du protocole</i>

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN**

PAPADIMOULIS, Dimitrios (Mr./M.) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker <i>Vice-Président</i>
ALATOPOULOS, Philippos (Mr./M.)	Vice-President's Secretariat <i>Secrétariat du Vice-Président</i>
KOJELIS, Mindaugas (Mr./M.)	Administrator, Committee on Foreign Affairs <i>Administrateur, Commission des affaires étrangères</i>

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF MEMBER NATIONS OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)
ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE
LA COMMUNAUTE DES ETATS INDEPENDANTS (CEI)**

MATVIENKO, Valentina (Ms./Mme) Leader of the Delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker <i>Présidente</i>
RYBAKOV, Sergey (Mr./M.)	Member of Parliament of the Russian Federation <i>Membre du Parlement de la Fédération de Russie</i>
JAFAROV, Aidyn (Mr./M.)	Member of the Milli Mejlis of Azerbaijan <i>Membre du parlement d'Azerbaïdjan</i>
CHILINGARYAN, Ayk (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale d'Arménie</i>
BAKENOV, Khalel (Mr./M.)	Member of the Parliament of Kazakhstan <i>Membre du Parlement du Kazakhstan</i>
KOGUT, Viktor (Mr./M.)	Member of the National Assembly of Belarus <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Belarus</i>
LIPCIU, Ion (Mr./M.)	Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova <i>Membre du parlement de la République de Moldova</i>
SATVALDIEV, Nurbek (Mr./M.)	Member of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic <i>Membre du parlement du Kirghizstan</i>
RAKHIMOV, Ibod (Mr./M.)	Member of the Majlisi Oli of Tajikistan <i>Membre du Parlement du Tadjikistan</i>
SOKOLOVA, Irina (Ms./Mme)	Member of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

SERGEEV, Alexey (Mr./M.)
Secretary General
Secrétaire général

*Membre de l'Assemblée fédérale de la Fédération de
Russie*
Head of the IPA CIS Council Secretariat
*Chef du Secrétariat du Conseil de l'Assemblée de la
CEI*

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMÉRICAIN

GONZÁLEZ ULLOA, Rolando (Mr./M.)
Leader of the Delegation
Chef de la délégation
GONZÁLEZ PATRICIO, Rolando (Mr./M.)

Member, General Secretary
Membre, Secrétaire général

Member, Committee Secretary
Membre, Secrétaire de commission

III. OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS**UNITED NATIONS OFFICE (UNO)****ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)**

PERESADA, Sergey (Mr./M.), Programme Management Officer / *Chargé de la gestion de programme*

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)**ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE**

SEROVA, Eugenia (Ms./Mme), Director, Liaison Office / *Directrice du Bureau de liaison*

PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD HEALTH (PMNCH)**PARTENARIAT POUR LA SANTE DE LA MERE, DU NOUVEAU-NE ET DE L'ENFANT**

ALCALA DONEGANI, Maria Jose (Ms./Mme)

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**PROGRAMME COMMUN DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LE VIH/SIDA**

CARMO FERREIRA, Rita (Ms./Mme), Executive Director UNITE / *Directrice executive UNITE*

KAKKATTIL, Pradeep (Mr./M.), Director, Programme Partnership, Innovations and Fundraising

Directeur du Programme de partenariats, des innovations et des recherches de fonds

SALDANHA, Vinay (Mr./M.), Director, Regional Support Team, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Directeur, Equipe de soutien regional, Europe de l'est et Asie centrale

TIWARI, Anand (Mr./M.), Senior Adviser, Parliamentary Engagement / *Conseiller principal, Engagement parlementaire*

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT (PNUD)**

CHAUVEL, Charles (Mr./M.), Team Leader, Inclusive Political Processes, UNDP New York / *Chef d'équipe, Processus de participation politique, Bureau de New York*

HOVE, Mads (Mr./M.), Policy Analyst, Parliamentary Development and Inclusive Political Processes

Analyste politique, Développement parlementaire et processus politiques d'inclusion

JONES, Dyfan (Mr./M.), Effective Governance Team Leader and Parliamentary Development Specialist, Fiji

Chef d'équipe et spécialiste du développement parlementaire, Fidji

KOZOMARA, Milena (Ms./Mme), Istanbul Regional Hub / *Bureau regional d'Istanbul*

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE**

POWELL, James (Mr./M.), Global U-Report Lead, Office of Innovation / *Chef de Global U-Report, Bureau de l'innovation*

SOTOMAYOR, Maria Luisa (Mrs./Mme), Global U-Report Coordinator / *Coordinatrice de Global U-Report*

BROOKS, Christopher (Mr./M.), Representative / *Représentant*

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS (OCHA)**BUREAU DE LA COORDINATION DES AFFAIRES HUMANITAIRES DES NATIONS UNIES**

SOLCHAGA, Juan (Mr./M.), Humanitarian Affairs Officer / *Chargé des affaires humanitaires*

SMITH, Robert (Mr./M.), Chief, Partnerships Coordination Section / *Chef de la Section de la coordination des partenariats*

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)**OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES CONTRE LA DROGUE ET LE CRIME (ONUDC)**

MIEDICO, Mauro (Mr./M.), Chief a.i. of Terrorism Prevention Branch / *Chef a.i. du Département de prévention du terrorisme*

UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (UN WOMEN)**ENTITÉ DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ÉGALITÉ DES SEXES ET L'AUTONOMISATION DES FEMMES (ONU FEMMES)**

TRABELSI, Meriem (Ms./Mme), iKnow Politics Language Facilitator / *Formateur linguistique de iKnow Politics*

ANDRADE, Samara (Ms./Mme), Project Manager / *Chargée de projet*

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTÉ (OMS)**

BUSTREO, Flavia (Ms./Mme), Assistant Director-General
 NARASIMHAN, Manjulaa (Ms./Mme), Scientist / *Scientifique*
 SCOLARO, Elisa (Ms./Mme), Technical Officer / *Administratrice technique*
 TOSKIN, Igor (Mr./M.), Scientist / *Scientifique*

COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)**ORGANISATION DU TRAITÉ D'INTERDICTION COMPLÈTE DES ESSAIS NUCLÉAIRES (OTICEN)**

ZERBO, Lassina (Mr./M.), Executive Secretary / *Secrétaire exécutif*
 CHEPURINA, Maria (Ms./Mme), External Relations Officer / *Chargée des relations extérieures*

WORLD BANK**BANQUE MONDIALE**

BUNCHUK, Mikhail (Mr./M.), Operations Officer / *Chargé des opérations*

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**LEAGUE DES ETATS ARABES**

MOUSLI, Malek (Mr./M.), Head of the Mission in Moscow / *Chef de la Mission à Moscou*

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (ACP-EU JPA)**ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE PARITAIRE ACP-UE**

BUNDU, Ibrahim Rassin (Mr./M.), Co-President / *Co-Président*
 CHILIMBOYI, Lawrence (Mr./M.), Co-Secretary / *Co-Secrétaire*
 KOROMA, Mohamed (Mr./M.), Assistant to Mr. Bundu / *Assistant de M. Bundu*

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE**

CHEROUATI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director / *Directeur*
 N'ZI, Koffi (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 NGAYAP, Pierre Flambeau (Mr./M.), Senator (Cameroon) / *Sénateur (Cameroun)*

ARAB INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION (AIPU)**UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

AL SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 NIHAWI, Samir (Mr./M.), Director, Parliamentary Relations / *Directeur des relations parlementaires*

ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (APA)**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE ASIATIQUE**

AZARIKHAH, Asghar (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*
 MAJIDI, Mohammad Reza (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 MOSHIRVAZIRI, Bijan (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*

ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE

CHAGNON, Jacques (Mr./M.), President of the Assemblée parlementaire de Francophonie, President of the National Assembly of Quebec / *Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie, Président de l'Assemblée nationale du Québec*

S. MORIN, Mélissa (Ms./Mme), Adviser, Political Committee / *Conseillère, Commission politique*

FORUM OF PARLIAMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (FP- ICGLR)**FORUM DES PARLEMENTS DES LA CONFÉRENCE INTERNATIONALE SUR LA RÉGION DES GRANDS LACS (FP-CIRGL)**

HIGIRO, Prosper (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
 MBODI, Jenny (Ms./Mme), Administrative Assistant / *Assistante administrative*

INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY ON ORTHODOXY (IAO)**ASSEMBLÉE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE SUR L'ORTHODOXIE**POPOV, Sergei (Mr./M.), President of the General Assembly / *Président de l'Assemblée générale***PARLAMERICAS**GUERRA, Marcela (Ms./Mme), President / *Présidente***PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)****PARLEMENTAIRES POUR LA NON PROLIFÉRATION NUCLÉAIRE ET LE DÉARMEMENT (PNDN)**WARE, Alyn (Mr./M.), Global Coordinator / *Coordinateur global*NURZHAN, Marzhan (Mr./M.), CIS Countries Coordinator / *Coordinateur pour les pays de la CEI***MAGHREB CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL****CONSEIL CONSULTATIF DU MAGHREB**MOKADEM, Said (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)****ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE**CAN, Ramazan (Mr./M.), Vice-President / *Vice-Président*HAJIYEV, Asaf (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*USTUNDAG, Ali Gürkan (Mr./M.), Administrative Officer / *Fonctionnaire administratif***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)****ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE**AMORUSO, Francesco Maria (Mr./M.), Honorary President / *Président honoraire*POZZI, Riccardo (Mr./M.), Secretariat / *Secrétariat***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (OSCE)****ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORGANISATION POUR LA SECURITE ET LA COOPERATION EN EUROPE**KANERVA, Ikka (Mr./M.), Member of Parliament, President Emeritus and Special Representative on Mediation
*Membre du Parlement, Président émérite, et Représentant spécial de la médiation*BÄCHLER, Günther (Mr./M.), Ambassador, Special Representative / *Ambassadeur, Représentant spécial*VÄLIVAARA, Maija (Ms./Mme), Special Adviser / *Conseillère spéciale***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF TURKIC SPEAKING COUNTRIES (TURKPA)****ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DES PAYS DE LANGUE TURCQUE**ASANOV, Jandos (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*ALAKBAROV, Fuad (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint*SARIARSLAN, Kursad Melih (Mr./M.), Deputy Secretary General / *Secrétaire général adjoint***PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND RUSSIA****ASSEMBLÉE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**SLUTSKY, Leonid (Mr./M.), Chairman of the State Duma International Affairs Committee, Head of the delegation
*Président de la Commission des affaires internationales de la Douma d'Etat, Chef de la délégation*STRELCHENKO, Sergey (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*SAMOSEIKO, Mikalai (Mr./M.), First Deputy Secretary General / *Premier Secrétaire général adjoint*LEYKAUSKAS, Audrius (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of Staff / *Chef adjoint du Secrétariat***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*

GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA**FONDS MONDIAL DE LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA, LA TUBERCULOSE ET LE PALUDISME**

BOULE, Scott (Mr./M.), Senior Specialist, Parliamentary Affairs / *Spécialiste principal, Affaires parlementaires*
IRBE, Sandra (Ms./Mme), Senior Fund Portfolio Manager / *Gérant principal de fonds*

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

KIRJAS, Emil (Mr./M.), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*
SLABUNOVA, Emilia (Ms./Mme), Leader of Yabloko Party / *Chef du parti Yabloko*
RYBAKOV, Nikolai (Mr./M.), Deputy Head of the Party / *Chef adjoint de parti*
RADAYEVA, Olga (Ms./Mme), Interpreter and Assistant / *Interprète et assistante*

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

AYALA, Luis (Mr./M.), Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général*
PERRY, Latifa (Ms./Mme), Coordinator of the Secretariat / *Coordinatrice du Secrétariat*

GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES (DCAF)**CENTRE POUR LE CONTROLE DEMOCRATIQUE DES FORCES ARMEES**

BORN, Johannes (Mr./M.), Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research / *Directeur adjoint, Chef de la politique et de la recherche*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

CHARLIER, Benjamin (Mr./M.), Legal Adviser, Advisory Service on IHL / *Conseiller juridique, Services consultatifs des DIH*

INTERNATIONAL IDEA

BRADLEY, Andrew (Mr./M.), Director and Head of the Office of International IDEA to the European Union
Directeur et Chef du Bureau de International IDEA auprès de l'Union européenne
VALLADARES, Jorge (Mr./M.), Senior Programme Manager Political Participation and Representation
Chargé principal du programme de la participation politique et de la représentation

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)**FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DE SOCIÉTÉS DE LA CROIX-ROUGE ET DU CROISSANT-ROUGE (FICR)**

ISOMAA, Kari (Mr./M.), Head of Country Cluster Support Team, Russian Federation, Belarus and Republic of Moldova / *Chef de l'Equipe d'appui de groupes de pays, Fédération de Russie, Belarus et République de Moldova*
MARKELOVA, Anna (Ms./Mme), Norwegian Red Cross Program Manager / *Chargée de programme de la Croix rouge norvégienne*

WORLD FEDERATION OF UN ASSOCIATIONS (WFUNA)

JAYARAMULU, Lingutla (Mr./M.), Secretary General, Andhra Pradesh United Nations Association
Secrétaire général, Association des Nations Unies de l'Andhra Pradesh

NEW AFFILIATIONS

(Affiliation becomes effective as of 1 January 2018)

NOUVELLES AFFILIATIONS*(L'affiliation prendra effet le 1^{er} janvier 2018)***MARSHALL ISLANDS**KEDI, Kenneth (Mr./M.), Speaker of Parliament / *Président du Parlement***SAINT LUCIA**THEODORE-JOHN, Leone (Ms./Mme), Speaker of the House of Assembly / *Présidente de l'Assemblée*DANIEL, Andy (Mr./M.), President of the Senate / *Président du Sénat***VANUATU**AMBLUS, Edwin (Mr./M.), First Deputy Speaker of Parliament / *Premier Vice Président du Parlement*TETER, Raulu Leon (Mr./M.), Acting Clerk of Parliament / *Secrétaire général a.i.***ADVISERS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE 137th ASSEMBLY
CONSEILLERS PARTICIPANT AUX TRAVAUX DE LA 137^{ème} ASSEMBLEE****ESTONIA - ESTONIE**

JAHILO, Peep (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

LUTTER, Kadri (Ms./Mme)

Adviser to the Group

Conseillère du Groupe

TAMP, Marju (Ms./Mme)

Secretary General, Estonian Parliament

*Secrétaire général, Parlement estonien*Adviser, Foreign Relations Department, Estonian
Parliament*Conseillère, Département des relations étrangères,
Parlement estonien*Adviser, Foreign Relations Department, Estonian
Parliament*Conseillère, Département des relations étrangères,
Parlement estonien***MONTENEGRO**

KOMNENIC, Natasa (Ms./Mme)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

MIJANOVIC, Irena (Ms./Mme)

Deputy Secretary General, Parliament

Secrétaire général adjoint, Parlement

Head of the Secretary General's Office, Parliament

*Chef du Bureau du Secrétaire général, Parlement***EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

MADETE, Kenneth (Mr./M.)

Member of the ASGP

Membre de l'ASGP

NAHAYO, Anatole (Mr./M.)

NDAYIZEYE, Beatrice (Ms./Mme)

TUGUME, Alfred (Mr./M.)

Adviser

Conseiller

TUHOYE, Emiliana (Ms./Mme)

Clerk

Secrétaire général

Senior Research Officer

Chargé principal de la recherche

Senior Clerk Assistant

Greffier principal adjoint

Senior Clerk Assistant

Greffier principal adjoint

Personal Secretary to the Clerk

Secrétaire particulier du Secrétaire général

**SPECIAL GUESTS TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 137th
ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**INVITES SPECIAUX PRENANT PART A DES ACTIVITES PREVUES A L'OCCASION DE LA 137ème
ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE**

FEDOTOV, Yury (Mr./M.), Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna

Directeur général du Bureau des Nations Unies à Vienne

IZSÁK-NDIAYE, Rita (Ms./Mme), Member of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Comité pour l'élimination de la discrimination raciale de l'ONU

WESTERBERG, Sofie (Ms./Mme), Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

OTHMAN ALTWAILJRI, Abdulaziz (Mr./M.), Director General of ISESCO / *Directeur général de ISESCO*

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale

BORN, Johannes (Mr./M.), Assistant Director, Head of Policy and Research Division, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)

Directeur adjoint, Chef de la Division des politiques et de la recherche, Centre pour le Contrôle Démocratique des Forces Armées (DCAF)

BRINKMAN, Henk-Jan (Mr./M.), Chief of Policy, Planning and Application, UN Peacebuilding Support Office

Chef du Service de planification des politiques, Bureau d'appui à la consolidation de la paix de l'ONU

GEIER, Karsten (Mr./M.), Head of the Cyber Policy Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Directeur du personnel de coordination des cyberpolitiques, Ministère fédéral des Affaires étrangères, Allemagne

STAUFFACHER, Daniel (Mr./M.), President ICT4Peace Foundation / *Président de la Fondation ICT4Peace*

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce

AVERCHENKOVA, Alina (Ms./Mme), Senior Research Fellow, London School of Economics

Chercheuse associée principale, London School of Economics

WHITEMAN, Adrian (Mr./M.), Senior Programme Officer, International Renewable Energy Agency

Administrateur de programme, Agence internationale pour les énergies renouvelables

BAYBARINA, Elena (Ms./Mme), Director, Department of Medical Care for Children and Maternity Service,

Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation / *Directeur, Département des soins médicaux pour les enfants et du Service de maternité*

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

Commission permanente des Affaires des Nations Unies

CHRISTENSEN, Tomas Anker (Mr./M.), Chief of Staff, UNGA President / *Chef de Cabinet, Président de UNGA*

Middle East Committee

Comité Moyen-Orient

BONA, Maurizio (Mr./M.), Expert / *Expert*

Committee to promote respect for International Humanitarian Law

Comité chargé de promouvoir le respect du droit international humanitaire

LEQUIN COUTIN, Marie (Ms./Mme), Head of Eurasia Region, Geneva Call / *Chef de la région Eurasie, Appel de Genève*

Interactive session on the UN process for the prohibition of nuclear weapons: What hope for nuclear disarmament?

Séance interactive sur le thème Le processus de l'ONU sur l'interdiction des armes nucléaires : Quel espoir pour le désarmement nucléaire?

WHYTE-GÓMEZ, Elayne (Ms./Mme), Ambassador of Costa Rica / *Ambassadrice du Costa Rica*

BLAIR, Bruce (Mr./M.), President and Founder of Global Zero / *Président et fondateur de Global Zero*

COLLIN, Jean-Marie (Mr./M.), Associate Researcher, Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP) / *Chercheur associé au Groupe de recherche et d'information sur la paix et la sécurité (GRIP)*

Interactive session on Ending AIDS through sexual and reproductive health: the need for urgent parliamentary action

Séance interactive sur le thème Eliminer le VIH/sida grâce à la santé sexuelle et génésique : il est urgent que les parlements agissent

RIOS, Adan (Mr./M.), Associate Professor of Medicine, Panama / *Professeur associé de médecine, Panama*

CHAKHAIA, Tsira (Ms./Mme), Global TB Caucus Representative / *Représentante de Global TB Caucus*

* * *