

# 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly

## Summary Records of the Proceedings

Manila (Philippines)

3 - 8 April 2005



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION





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## Introduction

The 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held in Manila (Philippines) from 3 to 8 April 2005. The Inaugural Ceremony took place in the *Cultural Center of the Philippines* and the working sessions of the Assembly took place in the *Philippines International Conference Center*.

Attendance at the Assembly was as follows:

**Members:** (delegations of national Parliaments of 116 countries): Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zambia

**Associate Members:** the Andean Parliament, the East African Legislative

Assembly, the Latin American Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

**Observers:** Observers included representatives of: (i) Palestine; (ii) the United Nations system: United Nations, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); (iii) International Organization for Migration (IOM), League of Arab States; (iv) African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU), Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA), Indigenous Parliament of the Americas, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community, Nordic Council, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation, Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Conference Members (PUOICM), South African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum; (v) International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); and (vi) the Coalition for the International Criminal Court

Of the total of 1,127 delegates who attended the Assembly, 614 were members of national parliaments. The parliamentarians included 32 presiding officers, 31 deputy presiding officers and 165 women parliamentarians (27%).

## Inaugural Ceremony

Sunday, 3 April

*The inaugural ceremony opened at 7 30 p m , in the presence of H E the President of the Republic of the Philippines, Mrs. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*

Mr FRANKLIN M DRILON, *President of the Senate of the Philippines*, welcomed the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on behalf of the Philippine Congress, and called for a minute of silence in memory of Pope John Paul II

The challenges facing the world were overwhelming. Technology and information presented opportunities to create wealth and an informed society, but they could also be used for terrorist purposes. Laws were being flouted with impunity; political greed, fuelled by an illicit global arms market, was exploiting ethnic and religious differences. The consequences were massive human rights violations and the displacement of thousands of persons.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goal to slash poverty by 50 per cent by 2015 would not be met unless the countries of the South were given fair terms of trade. The tuna industry, for example, which employed thousands of poor Filipinos, was hampered by high tariffs in its major markets, especially the United States of America. In that respect, a recent decision by the European Court of Justice on tuna tariffs was a positive development. Wealth could be expanded only if trade-distorting farm subsidies and tariffs were scrapped.

The Assembly, it was hoped, would produce solid strategies for pursuing global peace and development. The IPU was fortunate to have the United Nations as its partner in working towards those goals. In the light, however, of the huge obstacles standing in the way of global peace and development, the two organisations had to heighten their cooperation in areas such as reform of the international legal system. Non-binding United Nations declarations had established normative concepts of international law and had influenced domestic law.

The time had come to consider the possibility of ensuring that those who made the laws in their countries had a direct hand in the preparation of international treaties before they were signed by their respective States. In partnership with their governments,

parliamentarians could make an immense contribution to the economic self-sufficiency, freedom and security of peoples.

Mr JOSE DE VENECIA, Jr, *Speaker, House of Representatives of the Philippines*, welcomed the Assembly to Manila. The United Nations had set development goals which the IPU should adopt as its own, notably to halve global poverty by 2015. Poverty was a source of despair and a breeding ground for extremism.

The Association of Asian Parliamentarians for Peace (AAPP) was considering establishing an anti-poverty fund to help Asia's entrepreneurial poor. It was also giving fresh consideration to the proposal for an Asian monetary fund to act as a lender of first resort for members facing balance-of-payment difficulties.

The toughest challenge was international terrorism. Dialogue was needed between civilisations, religions and cultures in order to achieve multicultural understanding. The 59<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution sponsored by the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the promotion of interreligious dialogue (A/RES/59/23). Many regions were wracked by conflict; they were the frontlines for peace. Regional interfaith dialogue, backed by the parliaments concerned, was needed to turn those conflict zones into areas of peaceful coexistence. In the campaign against terrorism, force was not enough. The campaign was also a war of ideas: to elevate the confrontation with extremists to the heart and the intellect. It was vital to eliminate the poverty that led to terrorism. The clash of religions was taking place in the lethal shadow of nuclear confrontation, which was widely feared. John Paul II had shown the way; the IPU's Member Parliaments and delegates to the Assembly, no matter what their religion, must persevere in their efforts to bring peoples, cultures and civilisations closer together.

Mr ROBERT ORR, *Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, United Nations*, speaking on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, said that world leaders would meet at a summit in New York in September to review the progress made

since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration. It was to be hoped that the decisions they made would set the world on course to halve global poverty in 10 years, reduce the threats of war and terrorism, and embark on unprecedented reform of the United Nations. That agenda was set out in a report by the Secretary-General, *In larger freedom – Towards development, security and human rights for all*, which he had recently placed before the Member States.

Too often there was consensus without implementation, or implementation without consensus. There was now an opportunity to move in a new direction. The Secretary-General's report asked each developing country to adopt and start to implement a comprehensive national strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and called on the developed countries to complete the Doha round of trade negotiations by 2006 and to set aside, as agreed, 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for official development assistance (ODA) by 2015. It asked the States to agree to a new security consensus in order to counter terrorism, stop the spread of weapons and civil wars and build a lasting peace. Specifically, all States should finalise, sign and implement a convention on terrorism, another on nuclear terrorism, and a fissile material cut-off treaty. They should also agree to establish a peace-building commission within the United Nations.

With a view to strengthening the rule of law, human rights and democracy, the report asked States to embrace the principle of the "responsibility to protect", to ratify and implement all treaties relating to the protection of civilians, and to contribute, within their means, to a United Nations democracy fund to assist countries seeking to strengthen democracy.

In terms of United Nations reform, a revitalised General Assembly would focus on matters of substance that engaged civil society, as recommended in the Cardoso Report on relations between the United Nations and civil society. It would no doubt serve the interests of the United Nations if a decision on an expanded Security Council were made before the September summit. A rejuvenated Economic and Social Council would play a more strategic role and lend greater coherence to development policy, and a new Human Rights Council, to replace the present Commission on Human Rights, would give the cause of human rights the prominence it deserved. The Secretary-General's report

invited the States to treat the proposals as a package that struck a careful balance between the needs and interests of the various regions.

The United Nations called on parliamentarians to build bridges of cooperation between themselves in support of the summit agenda, which provided an opportunity to take decisive steps towards giving people better standards of living in larger freedom.

Mr SERGIO PAEZ VERDUGO, *President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union*, highlighted the importance of parliamentary action and political practice. The agenda of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly addressed issues affecting people's everyday aspirations for peace, freedom, justice, health and equitable growth. Urgent action was required to achieve the MDGs, to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS and to bring greater justice to the world.

The Assembly should deliberate on the major present and future challenges posed by the growth of migratory flows and natural disaster prevention and mitigation, and on the role of parliaments in the struggle to prevent the trafficking of children and violence against women in situations of conflict. A broad and rich exchange of ideas was needed to give fresh impetus to global progress.

In Manila, the IPU would assert the need for all States to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in order to prevent and repress crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

If the MDGs were to be met, countries had to earmark the requisite funds in their national budgets. The parliaments of developed countries needed to ensure that their governments upheld their commitments to help vulnerable countries, and those of developing countries must see to it that their governments mobilised the necessary resources to fight corruption, pursued institutional reform, stimulated growth and social equity and applied the principles of good governance.

Just as terrorism was an attack on life, HIV/AIDS was one of the most serious threats to life. Parliamentarians had a duty to recognise the gravity of the disease and the true levels of infection within their populations. They had to raise awareness among governments so that the latter recognised that the exercise of the fundamental rights of people living with HIV/AIDS implied access, without discrimination, to health, social and legal services, and above all to medicines.

One of the IPU's main tasks was to promote peace. Parliamentarians of the day had a duty to develop a culture of peace on the premises of dialogue and consensus, with everyone disposed to compromise, and not just to make demands.

The promotion of democracy was another ambitious goal, especially as democratic values were not rooted in the conscience of all peoples. The Union would continue to promote the quality of the world's representative organisations. Democracy would require action, training and genuine empathy between representatives and their constituents.

The Second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments would be held in New York in September 2005. In the five years since the first conference, parliamentarians had participated with increasing effectiveness in a growing number of international events. The IPU had contributed to the process, and its international prestige had benefited as a result.

Mrs GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, *President of the Republic of the Philippines*, said that the Assembly had gathered to celebrate democracy and parliamentarians around the world who had dedicated their lives to strengthening the fabric of democracy. It would discuss a number of pressing issues: the eradication of poverty, how to heighten security in the face of terrorism while preserving individual liberty, globalisation and equality for all. Not all countries shared the ideals of democracy. In Asia, some peoples lived under authoritarian regimes and had no voice, liberty or economic opportunity. In some democratic countries, individuals were shut out by

discrimination, poor education, lack of opportunity and oppressive tradition. The Philippines took pride in being Asia's first democracy. That it had the largest delegation of women parliamentarians in the 20-year history of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians was a further source of satisfaction.

The Philippine Government had made the fight against corruption the cornerstone of its programme to promote growth and create jobs. The country's fiscal situation was stable, exports, imports and growth were up, and the stock market was one of those with the best performance in Asia, the result of programmes to develop new lands for agribusiness, support entrepreneurs and provide microcredits. Over one million women had benefited from microfinancing to date. Half of all government employees were women, and women were playing a bigger part in democratic life and taking charge of their economic lives. The world continued to be divided, however, between rich and poor, hope and despair, growth and stagnation. In a democracy, such disparities were both a burden and a challenge.

Social justice and civil rights had to go hand in hand with economic opportunity and political freedom. Strong, free and independent media were vital to safeguard democracy. She saluted the journalists who had died in pursuit of the truth.

*Mrs Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union open.*

*The inaugural ceremony closed at 8 40 p m.*

## Sitting of Monday, 4 April (Morning)

The meeting was called to order at 10 15 a m with Mr S. Páez Verdugo (Chile), President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in the Chair

### Item 1 of the agenda

#### **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The PRESIDENT announced that the Governing Council had decided to propose that Mr Franklin M Drilon, President of the Philippine Senate, should be elected President of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly

*Mr Franklin M Drilon (Philippines) was elected President by acclamation and took the Chair*

The PRESIDENT thanked the Assembly for the honour and privilege thus bestowed on him and welcomed delegates to Manila

In accordance with Assembly Rule 22, each delegation would be limited to 8 minutes speaking time during the General Debate, which would include statements by Ms Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, and Mr Robert Orr, Assistant United Nations Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning At 4 30 p m the Assembly would consider requests for inclusion of an emergency item in the agenda On 5 April the Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mr Alberto G Romulo, would address the Assembly and a panel discussion would be held on migration and development Delegations wishing to nominate a Vice-President of the Assembly should communicate with the Secretary General of the IPU

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

The PRESIDENT invited Ms Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF, to the rostrum

#### **Address by Ms. Carol BELLAMY, Executive Director of UNICEF**

Ms C BELLAMY, Executive Director of UNICEF, said her organisation was proud of its growing partnership with the IPU

Since 1990, there had been an 18 per cent decline in child mortality, but the marginalisation and exploitation of children continued The delegates should use their power to create real and lasting improvements for children Beyond charity, such improvements needed acts of law and leadership by legislators Governments and civil society had an important role to play, but every positive step required legislative action

Parliamentarians had the power to probe and ask questions across the social spectrum, but did not always find it easy to defend the rights of women and children Powerful interests preferred governments to spend more on the military than on social services and entrenched bureaucracies made change in the health and education sectors difficult to obtain, but, there were compelling reasons to fight for women and children, chief among them that it was good for the nation to invest in and protect them UNICEF's *State of the World's Children* report for 2005 had identified conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS as the key challenges facing children and women It had found that more than one billion children were being robbed of their childhood by those three forces, and that it was the most marginalised who were most likely to suffer UNICEF was sometimes criticised for putting emphasis on women and girls, but that emphasis stemmed from the fact that girls were more likely than boys to be deprived of education, that half a million women died in childbirth every year, that HIV/AIDS was spreading ever more rapidly among women, and that systematic rape was being used as a weapon of war One of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was the empowerment of children and women The gains so far had been uneven, but the world's legislators had the power to change that She firmly believed in legislators as leaders in that respect As an example of what could be done, UNICEF and the IPU were cooperating

in launching their second joint publication, a handbook on stopping child trafficking

Mrs I UDRE (Latvia) said that in a fully democratic society all members had equal rights. Women represented 53.9 per cent of the Latvian population. They had won the right to vote in 1918, but it was easier to gain rights than to implement them. The recent Latvian elections had shown that the higher the political office, the less likely it was to be filled by a woman. Nonetheless, one fifth of members of parliament and four out of 18 ministers were women, as were the President, the Speaker and the State Controller. Assuming high office could be problematic for women, who had to balance career and family life and must combat stereotypes. Women could encounter a glass ceiling, and had to compete in a traditionally masculine world. Barriers could also be self-imposed, arising from a lack of self-confidence. Education was therefore important to encourage women to develop their potential.

In 2002 a new law had provided that the state childcare allowance could be paid to either parent, an advance for the principle of gender equality. The Latvian Government was pursuing a programme for implementing gender equality.

She concluded by expressing condolences to the entire Christian world on the death of Pope John Paul II.

Ms R M ALBERNAZ (Portugal) said that while in the past policies aimed at equality had been developed in respect of women, since 1985 gender equality had been introduced for all policies. Both men and women benefitted in what was a more transparent approach that considered both genders as having equal value. The objectives could only be reached when all policies were developed, approved and evaluated taking gender into consideration. That reorientation improved men's and women's private lives; they were then considered to be the subjects rather than the objects of policy. The United Nations, the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe played an important role in the conception of policies to promote equality, which were indispensable in order to change attitudes and behaviour. Positive discrimination brought about favourable changes. In Portugal, inequality of the sexes remained a major problem. The Government had committed itself to gender mainstreaming in policy, to reinforcing the political participation of women

and to bringing equality to maternity and paternity rights.

Ms K KOMI (Finland) said that Finland was often considered to be a model of equality, but in fact much remained to be done. Gender equality and the promotion of women's rights had been incorporated into the government programme, the goals of which included the harmonisation of family and working life and a focus on gender stereotypes in the media. Women entrepreneurs needed help in the form of increased financial resources and assistance with networking. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) played an important role.

The great challenge in Finland was to reduce domestic violence against women, of which poverty, unemployment, intoxicants and social problems were all factors. Finland was about to undertake an analysis by gender of both state and municipal budgets.

Globalisation had resulted in increased victimisation of women and children through human trafficking, sexual violence being used as a weapon of conflict, and religion or politics excluding women from opportunities to influence society. International forces continued to buy sexual services in areas of conflict. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had condemned human trafficking, but had not forbidden its soldiers to buy sexual services. The United Nations had imposed a ban on its personnel using prostitutes, with limited success. Globalisation offered possibilities for training, trade and the development of environmental protection. The issues raised at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women 10 years earlier were still relevant. Genuine cooperation was required.

Mrs P LARSEN (Denmark) said that democracy, human rights and good governance were being neglected. The situation was worse for women, who were excluded from participating in economic and political affairs and the development of society. Support was needed for sexual and reproductive health and rights at a global level so that women could plan and make decisions for their own lives in both rich and poor countries. Gender discrimination increased women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Seventy-six per cent of people aged 15 to 24 living with HIV were female, and the number was increasing. The burden of HIV/AIDS care fell on women and girls, who were left to support entire households.

As a member of the United Nations Security Council, Denmark's top priority was the promotion of peaceful solutions to ongoing conflicts. There was a particular need to protect the human rights of women, in times of both peace and conflict. It was intolerable that people sent to protect and assist had used their position to abuse others. Women needed to speak up and use their remarkable resources to contribute to development and growth. Women were excellent entrepreneurs, they worked hard and were good at paying back debts. They were worth investing in. If the MDGs were to be achieved, women's participation in public and private life needed to be improved. Society would be wise to invest in that direction.

Mr I AUF (Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States - PUOICM) said that the PUOICM wished to bring several issues of concern to the attention of the international community. In the Arab-Israeli conflict, the situation in the Palestinian territories had worsened. International pressure was necessary to persuade Israel to halt the expansion of Jewish settlements around Jerusalem and to abide by the proposals put forward by the Arab League summit held in Algiers in March. Israel should withdraw from the territories and allow an independent Palestinian State to be established, in keeping with the international road map for peace, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

In Iraq there had been progress with the general elections, but violence continued. The international community should press the occupying forces to draw up a timetable for withdrawal to allow for the full re-establishment of Iraqi sovereignty.

There had been a concerted global effort to combat terrorism since the attacks of 11 September 2001, but there had been no effort to define terrorism. As a consequence, those involved in legitimate struggles for self-determination had been incorrectly labelled as terrorists. Terrorism had also become a descriptive term reserved for Islamic States yet Islam could not be characterised in that way. Terrorism had to be clearly defined, and the PUOICM believed an international conference should be convened to address the root causes of terrorism and to combat it in the framework of law and respect for human rights.

Mr T QUBA'A (Palestine) said that for the Palestinians, deeds are better than words. The Palestinian people were still suffering under the Israeli occupation, despite the adoption of

numerous resolutions and the signing of agreements. Israel was not respecting the will of the international community and was able to rely on support from the United States. Its actions in the occupied territories were in violation of international law. It was continuing with the construction of 3,500 additional houses in the West Bank in an attempt to isolate East Jerusalem from the other Palestinian territories and to split the West Bank in two. Its construction of the security barrier continued to have a major impact on the daily lives of Palestinians. All those policies undermined trust between the parties. The Palestinians nevertheless remained committed to a peaceful solution, free and fair elections, economic reform and an improvement in the lot of women. Legislative elections would be held in a few months, despite the challenges posed by the occupation.

He hoped that Israel's lack of compliance and its reliance on euphemisms would be recognised by the international community, and that action would be taken to end the double standards.

Israel should be encouraged to ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons so that the Middle East could be a nuclear-free zone. Such action would help guarantee international and regional peace.

Ms L MADERO GARCIA (Mexico) stressed that women could not influence major political decisions if they did not exercise real power, and that therefore, the wording of legislation did not accurately reflect the problems they faced. Hence, Mexican congresswomen led a constant struggle for greater representation in the governing bodies of political parties and in Congress. Thanks to their determination, the electoral law had been reformed in 2003; henceforth political parties would not be able to present lists with more than 70 per cent of candidates of the same gender. That law had produced immediate results, for women now held 23.8 per cent of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, compared with 16 per cent three years earlier, and a fifth of those in local legislatures. That was an improvement, but more had to be achieved. Therefore, there was an ongoing effort to achieve greater equality for women and children. A "Mexican women's parliament" had been founded, offering a space for political reflection and discussion of proposals that could lead to legislation promoting greater equality. Already, the increased representation of women in the Mexican Congress had led to

the adoption of legislation beneficial for society as a whole; it had resulted in the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Further, the Mexican Constitution had been amended to introduce the right to live without discrimination. Those developments illustrated that women could serve as catalysts for social change. In short, women's participation in politics should not be limited to exercising the right to vote: they should also exercise legislative and executive power. The work of the IPU was to be commended; its meetings fostered regional and international synergies to wipe out discrimination against women. The true integration of women in politics, the economy and society meant the integration of the half of humankind which had been marginalised.

Mrs R BOHATYRIOVA (Ukraine) said that women made up 52 per cent of the population of Ukraine. They enjoyed equal voting, education, employment and property rights. Nonetheless, statistics showed that the situation was not as good as it appeared. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture were women, but the rest of the government was made up of men. Only 5 per cent of members of parliament were women. In recent years that proportion had fluctuated between 3 and 24 per cent. In a recent survey, fewer than half of those polled had agreed that it was acceptable for the principal breadwinner in a household to be a woman. Although there was a problem with social attitudes, there were many opportunities for women in Ukraine, and they would increase as the process of democratic transformation gathered pace. Ukraine wished to join other countries in fighting domestic violence and slavery, issues which should be priorities for national governments around the world.

Mr B BHALAKULA (Thailand) said that the United Nations MDGs and the Beijing Platform for Action set out guidelines for promoting the status of women in every field. In Thailand women enjoyed increasing rights. Equality of education had been achieved as long ago as 1901, and the only areas of discrimination that remained related to institutions such as military and police academies. Women had gained the right to

vote in Thailand's first democratic elections, in 1932. The law had been amended to give women full matrimonial property rights. The first female member of parliament had been elected in 1949. Until the 1980s, the proportion of women in parliament had been fewer than 3 per cent, but since then it had increased to more than 10 per cent. Seven women had been appointed to chair standing committees, and for the first time a woman had been appointed deputy speaker. At the local level, gender equality issues had been mainstreamed. In 1995 a woman had been appointed as a provincial governor for the first time. As Minister of the Interior, he personally had appointed women as governors and deputy governors. The Thai Government was making every effort to increase the rights of women. In particular, it had a project to double the number of women in parliament. The Thai National Assembly would cooperate with other governments in promoting women's rights.

Mr J AL-KHARAFI (Kuwait) expressed the willingness of the Kuwaiti people to continue to support those who had been affected by the tsunami and to build bridges between peoples and cultures. It was his aim to build a world of peace and cooperation. There was a need to understand shared problems and an opportunity to build a new world order on justice and democracy. Efforts needed to be made to promote peace, to reform the United Nations and to fight terrorism. All members of the international community must be considered: there should not be discrimination between the powerful and the meek or between the rich and the poor.

The agenda for the third millennium was a stable economic system and peace. Regional peace was a part of global peace. The Arab region had experienced much tension in past decades. In particular, Iraq and Palestine needed international support to create independent, peaceful and free countries. The Kuwaiti parliament took such issues very seriously. Terrorism was a particular problem, as it knew no borders and had no scruples.

*Mrs B Mbete (South Africa), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Mrs D STUMP (Switzerland) thanked the organisers of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly, and said she was pleased to see that for the first time in the history of the IPU, women's issues were part of the general debate. The Swiss delegation felt that domestic and international policies were

working together to implement a policy of true gender equality contributing to the advancement of women

Switzerland, a small country in the heart of Europe, could not help but be affected by trends in neighbouring countries. It also had an influence on its neighbours. Moreover, the Beijing Conference and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women did indeed have an impact on the situation of women in Switzerland. The notion of gender equality had been introduced in the Constitution in 1981, and Article 8 prohibited all forms of discrimination based on gender. Equality should reign in the family, at school and in the workplace.

In application of that principle, a federal law on equality between men and women had entered into force in 1996. Its aim was to promote gender equality in the workplace by prohibiting discrimination, whether direct or indirect. All work-related factors were considered: recruitment, employment, wages and advancement. Sexual harassment was also prohibited, and measures must be taken to prevent it.

Admittedly, the law did not put an end to discrimination in the workplace. Women were reluctant to accuse their employers, and judges, a majority of whom were men, did not readily acknowledge or punish indirect discrimination because they were influenced by traditional values. They had to be made aware of the issue first.

Another example of changes in Swiss law was the divorce law. The latest revision of family law in the Swiss Civil Code had new repercussions on divorce law. In particular, the economic effects of a permanent separation were taken into account, regardless of gender or blame. Even if the previous system of divorce law had not made a distinction between men and women, it had penalised the person in charge of child-rearing and domestic duties. Henceforth, the couple's property would be shared more equitably, especially with regard to provident funds and retirement.

Politicians, judges and lawyers must receive training and be made aware of new trends in gender equality.

Mr R M C KABORE (Burkina Faso) seized the opportunity provided by the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly to convey to the Philippine hosts the good wishes of the people and parliament of Burkina Faso. He heartily congratulated the President of the Senate and

the Inter-Parliamentary Groups for their excellent organisation of the meeting.

The general debate on the situation of women underscored the international community's longstanding commitment to promoting equal rights for men and women. The status of women was an overriding concern of the public authorities in Burkina Faso, as elsewhere, because there would be no sustainable development if the rights of women, who made up more than half of the world's population, were not protected. The international community for several decades had waged an unrelenting campaign – that included the International Women's Year (1975), the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and the United Nations Decade for Women (1976 to 1986) – against traditional social attitudes tending to marginalise women. The Government of Burkina Faso had embraced those endeavours. It had been one of the few governments to have decreed, as early as 1984, that 8 March, International Women's Day, would be a paid holiday. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, which had become the Ministry for the Promotion of Women in 1997, was continuing to implement the affirmative action contained in the 2003-2007 plan. In November 1994 a document had been issued outlining a framework for action aimed at improving the legal and social status of women. Among other things, it aimed to ensure their access to decision-making and education, to safeguard the health of mothers and their children and to guarantee the institutional promotion of women.

The status of women was a global concern calling for an international framework. In that respect, there were encouraging signs and tangible results. Women had entered the world of politics and could work together effectively. The IPU had a significant role to play in urging parliaments to exert pressure on governments to adopt and ratify ambitious legislation. By ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Government of Burkina Faso had shown its determination to fight for equal rights.

Mr TRUONG QUANG DUOC (Viet Nam) said that the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly provided an opportunity to assess achievements and shortcomings in the cause of gender equality and women's advancement. The achievements in the 10 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women had resulted in a significant improvement in the role of women.

in political, economic, cultural and social life. Progress had been hindered, however, by factors such as political instability, terrorism, the negative impact of globalisation, trafficking in women, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and conservative attitudes among policy makers.

Viet Nam had incorporated the spirit of the Beijing Platform for Action into a national strategy and plan of action for the advancement of women up to 2010. In Viet Nam women's rights had improved considerably, aided by a progressive legal framework. The number of women parliamentarians had increased by 10 per cent since 1992, to 27.3 per cent. The female literacy rate had risen from 82.3 per cent in 1993 to 90.9 per cent. Joint land and property ownership had been introduced and the country had achieved a seven-year increase in female life expectancy since 1995. As a consequence, there were no significant gaps between the Human Development Index and the Gender Development Index. It was expected that a gender equality law would be adopted by 2007. Consistency in gender equality was required across all levels of government. Investing in gender equality was key to improving national development and reducing poverty.

Ms P TORSNEY (Canada) noted an increase in female participation in the current session of the Assembly. The parliamentary dimension in promoting equality was vital to ensure popular representation.

Much work was required to meet the MDGs by 2015. Canada had a legal framework for equality, but its interest in promoting the issue globally was based on the need to harness the potential of all citizens to advance development. Men were also affected if women were unable to participate fully. Society would be poorer, and the country would fail to realise its full economic potential.

Renewed efforts were required to promote sexual and reproductive health care. Globally, there were 500,000 pregnancy-related deaths each year. An estimated 20 million unsafe abortions were carried out each year, and 68,000 women died as a consequence; 350 million couples lacked access to effective family planning. The international community could do better.

The Asian tsunami had prompted an outpouring of humanitarian aid. Canada would continue to show solidarity with the victims of the disaster. An unprecedented 200 million Canadian dollars had been donated in two weeks by the Canadian public, a figure that had

been matched by the Canadian Government. It was important for other countries to ensure that the funds they had pledged were delivered.

Mr C VALLEJO LOPEZ (Ecuador) said that his country, like the rest of South America, was part of what could well be called "the backyard" of the world's most powerful country. At the inaugural session of the Assembly on 3 April 2005, emphasis had been placed on maintaining peace and security, and respect for fundamental rights and democracy, important intangible rights for which the IPU had provided its longstanding support. There were, however, other serious problems to be considered: 99 per cent of victims of HIV/AIDS were in the world's poor countries; clashes between nations, generally between small and large countries, with the latter tending to impose their law on the former; and terrorism, a fertile ground for those who believed that the world's problems could be resolved by violence.

All those problems called for an honest look. The fall of the Berlin Wall had allowed some States to impose globalisation, i.e., a single market in which the rich countries were the sellers and the poor countries were the buyers, or the suppliers of raw materials. That was clearly a case of domination, and in the coming years, the United States, the EU and some Asian countries would be relentlessly striving to capture markets where they would be able to dispose of their goods and buy raw materials at low cost. None other than United States President Bush himself had explained that any country that did not defend its output did not defend its sovereignty. However, that statement showed that the United States President was interested only in his own country's sovereignty. Clearly, if the rich countries stopped subsidising their agricultural products, countries such as Ecuador, which had to devote 48 per cent of its GDP to service its foreign debt, would be able to pay it off within two years. It was high time to stop subsidising the farmers of rich countries so that poor countries would at last be able to channel their resources into education and health.

But what lay ahead? The EU would soon impose a \$300-per-tonne tax on bananas to protect the interests of multinational corporations; by so doing it would plunge thousands of Latin American banana growers into poverty. Is that what was meant by "fairness" and "free trade"? At the same time, the United States would force the Governments of Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to sign an

infamous free trade agreement that those small, poor countries, under heavy pressure, would not be able to refuse. In other words, the people of the least developed countries would have to continue to live in poverty so that the rich countries could maintain their level of prosperity.

Terrorism was indeed a serious problem, but economic terrorism was even worse, as it destroyed the lives of millions of people in poor countries. That was the issue on which the Assembly's discussions should focus. Where indeed were the parliamentarians from the major powers who claimed to demand justice and fairness but did not raise their voices to defend those poor countries from which thousands of people had to leave their homes to become slaves in rich countries? It was their duty to call a spade a spade. But it would be more valorous of them to put words into action by opening markets to producers from poor countries, and by at last applying the principle of equality to all human beings.

Mr J JAYAWARDANA (Sri Lanka) expressed thanks to the international community and to development agencies for the aid which had been sent to Sri Lanka following the tsunami disaster on 26 December 2004. The majority of the victims had been women and children. Sri Lanka had a population of 17 million, of which 52 per cent were women. In the cultural traditions of Sri Lanka, women had a high status. The woman was considered the most important member of the family. The female population was being given equal opportunities in primary and secondary education. The first female prime minister in the world had come from Sri Lanka, and the country's current president was also a woman.

Major problems for women in Sri Lanka included poverty, malnutrition and unemployment. The Government had adopted policies to tackle poverty, but it remained a huge problem. Unemployment among women was over 30 per cent, and many Sri Lankan women still had to emigrate to the Middle East to seek work as housemaids. The conflict within Sri Lanka had also had a strong impact on women. More than 40,000 young women had been widowed and left with young children to bring up on their own as a result of the conflict. It was hoped that the conflict could be brought to an end by a negotiated political settlement, which would bring great benefits to women.

Mr A SAADANI (Algeria) praised the work of the IPU and congratulated Mr Drilon on his election to the presidency of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

Algerian public policy was set with a view to attaining equal rights and responsibilities for men and women. The executive and legislative branches were striving to ensure that equality, already tangible in the social, educational and cultural arenas, would also be reflected in the political and economic sectors and in the socio-professional and personal status of women. In Algeria, a Council for the Preservation and Promotion of the Family and a National Women's Council had thus been established. The Family Code had also been revised to restore the balance between the rights and responsibilities of spouses, in accordance with the Constitution.

Today, girls were attending school in large numbers at all levels of education, and women's employment rates were rising as they gradually obtained access to political and economic responsibilities and the higher echelons of public service. They were henceforth playing a major role as professionals, in the press, in education and in the courts. Algeria boasted more than 6,000 women entrepreneurs, a women vice-president of the Senate, and a number of women ministers, senators, deputies, *wali*, ambassadors, heads of political parties and presidential candidates.

Nevertheless, much remained to be done to remove the innumerable barriers to the full emancipation of Algerian women. In Algeria, as elsewhere, however, those hurdles had more to do with traditions and mentalities than with legislation. Such legislation not only recognised that women should enjoy the same rights as men; it criminally sanctioned all forms of discrimination against them, and in addition provided for positive discrimination measures.

Algerian women, at the forefront of the campaign against terrorism, had proved that they deserved the reputation of true combatants by emerging victorious from a fight in which they had a great deal at stake. Today, civil peace and political stability had been restored in Algeria, paving the way for its participation in ambitious reform projects in which women were stakeholders. Algeria would continue those efforts; it was its duty to do so.

Mr A EL KADIRI (Morocco) thanked the Senate and the Philippine Government and people for their warm hospitality. Although

significant strides were increasingly being made in science and technology, leading to more productive agriculture and industry and a better tapping of natural resources, paradoxically, not all of the global village was able to benefit from improved living conditions. In fact, very few people did. Only a limited number of peoples and regions benefited, and the world was still subject to the profoundly unfair rule of asymmetrical progress that created feelings of frustration and despair for many people who considered that they had been marginalised.

The Government of Morocco had launched an outreach policy aimed at enhancing its people's quality of life. It had also reaffirmed its condemnation of all forms of terrorism, emphasising peaceful coexistence and tolerance. As a country of the Islamic world, Morocco wished to strengthen the dialogue between civilisations and religions. It endorsed the Philippine initiative aimed at setting up an international fund under the aegis of the United Nations to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters.

Devastating conflicts were being waged in various parts of the world, in particular in the

Middle East, which was torn by violence. International law had been flouted, and the Palestinian people continued to be deprived of their land, a State, security and stability. If their dignity was to be restored, the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and peace plans that Israel had pledged to respect must be enforced. The Iraqi people were experiencing a terrible situation. Iraq's territorial integrity should be restored as soon as possible: that was the only way to halt the spiral of terrorist attacks.

As everyone knew, the mechanism of asymmetrical progress unfortunately played a decisive role for the status of the world's women. While their status was indeed improving in some regions, in others, women were suffering from mounting poverty and the consequences of epidemics, illiteracy and armed conflict. Specific programmes needed to be developed to improve their lives and ensure their emancipation. Morocco was contributing to that collective effort: already 11 per cent of its parliamentarians were women.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*

## Sitting of Monday, 4 April (Afternoon)

*The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m., with Mr F.M. Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr K. SAIRAAN (Mongolia) expressed the deepest sympathies of the Mongolian parliament and people for those affected by the tsunami tragedy. The strong will of the people would help rebuild a better future, aided by other friendly nations of the world.

In September 2003 Mongolia had hosted the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, the theme of which had been *Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society*. At the conference, parliamentarians from 50 countries had participated in a forum

which had charted new paths to the consolidation of democracy in new, restored and mature democracies. The conference had produced practical recommendations on consolidating democracy and sharing international experience. Its follow-up activities included the development of a national plan of action to consolidate democracy and to produce democracy indicators and a country information note on democratic performance in different countries.

Mongolia had initiated pilot projects under the auspices of a government agency which was working in close cooperation with civil society and academia. Its national plan of action would be discussed and adopted by Mongolia's State of Democracy Conference to be held in June 2005, which would be the first national all-inclusive forum for implementing the recommendations of the 2003 International Conference in a new democracy. He hoped the Mongolian parliament would adopt the national plan as a document of national consensus. The experience gained from Mongolia's pilot projects would be shared with the international community. The projects were an excellent example of the substantive contribution to

democratisation that the International Conference had made

Mongolia urged the IPU to provide recommendations and advice on the participation of parliamentarians. The parliamentarians' forum at the International Conference had recommended making the forum a permanent feature, and had asked the Mongolian parliament and the IPU to identify measures to achieve that objective. The next Conference would be held in Doha in November 2006. There were plans to hold a regional IPU-supported workshop at the end of 2005 to share the results of Mongolia's experience. He hoped the conference's activities would be taken into account at future international events on the issue.

The Mongolian parliament supported the IPU's new initiative on the parliamentary dimension of democracy, and believed the two projects were complementary and interconnected. He hoped the workshop would produce recommendations for the first draft of the manual on parliaments and democracy.

Mrs E PAPADIMITRIOU (Greece) said that 45 years previously, John F. Kennedy had been elected President of the United States. His inaugural celebration had been organised by Sammy Davis Jr. Kennedy had asked Davis how the arrangements were going, and Davis had replied "all right, but we need to invite a couple more niggers, a couple more Jews and a couple more women". She did not know whether this anecdote was true, but *se non è vero è ben trovato*. That remark was a measure of how much progress had been made since 1960. Many victories had been won in achieving a world of equal opportunities. There was no lack of legal instruments guaranteeing equality, but what was lacking was the political will to implement them. The solidarity of women was a potent force for empowerment. However, playing devil's advocate, she asked whether it was sufficient to increase the number of women in parliaments without also focusing on the quality of the work done by those women. Women's perspectives should be treasured and women's distinctive agendas should be pursued in what was still a man's world.

*Mrs M Xavier (Uruguay), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Mr A MAJALI (Jordan) said that recent world developments had increased the suffering in the Middle East. Poverty was increasing, and

incomes were dwindling. There were great differences between rich and poor countries, which led to the spread of despair. The region's great potential for economic and social development was impeded by the political situation, which stemmed from the illegal occupation since 1967 of Palestinian land by the Israelis. Peace in the entire world was dependent on establishing peace in the Middle East. The region was the birthplace of three major religions, and was regarded by millions throughout the world as a holy area in which peace should prevail. It was not acceptable that the international community ignored the suffering of the Palestinian people and the need for an independent Palestinian State, with its capital in Jerusalem. The Israeli forces had to withdraw from Arab lands and the occupying forces must leave Iraq. Arabs had made a strategic choice for peace, as had been confirmed at the Arab Summit in Beirut in 2002. That choice should be supported by all peace-loving countries in the world.

In Jordan progress had been made towards establishing full human rights and the rights of women. Women participated in all forums on a basis of equality. Economic and social developments of that kind should always emerge from within a nation, and not be imposed on it by others.

Mr R CORREA FLORES (Latin American Parliament) said that in December 2004 the Latin American Parliament had decided to declare 2005 the year of Latin American and Caribbean Women and had called on its 22 member States to foster national legislation for gender equality. The Latin American Group on Gender Equality was working on a campaign against the sexual exploitation of children through the Internet which was a major problem in Latin America. It had also presented draft legislation to individual member parliaments, which aimed to protect pregnant adolescent girls.

The Parliament had drafted a charter for fundamental social rights which was to be presented to the Organisation of American States (OAS). That document would be a social charter for the Americas and would protect the rights of women and children. Legislators must try to resolve issues relating to women, gender, childhood, youth, and equity at the national level. They should also aim to ensure harmony with other countries at the regional level. He was interested in promoting interregional cooperation, in particular with the Asian region, in order to protect the rights of women and

others, and issued an open invitation for other countries and continents to join in that effort

Mr T RANABHAT (Nepal) was glad that the debate was focused on issues relevant to the international community. The rule of law, democracy and multiparty politics were the order of the day. Democracy offered equal opportunities to all. Members of parliament should be encouraged to strengthen representative democracy, and political parties had an important role to play. Parliamentarians should make concerted efforts to update fundamental human rights. A culture of tolerance was required, and that must be reflected in decisions. In Nepal there had been 10 years of threats to democracy, basic human rights, life and property. Technological advances had not ended hunger and famine. There was an urgent need to ensure that international commitments would be honoured; the only means to reduce those problems was social development. Foreign debt was aggravating problems in poor countries. He called for an end to complacency in dealing with overseas development assistance. Parliaments needed to be catalysts to further international cooperation.

Mr A F SOROUR (Egypt) wished to focus on recent developments in the Middle East. A great deal of action was needed from governments, parliaments and civil society in order to create a favourable climate in that region and to bring an end to the deadlock there. The Arab-Israeli conflict had lasted more than half a century. Both sides needed to come together, and the Quartet needed to step up its efforts. The Israelis must be encouraged to accept that a Palestinian State could exist alongside their country.

The first elections in fifty years had been held in Iraq and it was hoped that they would lead to the establishment of a democratic State. Iraqis needed to reach an agreement on their Constitution.

Egypt supported the agreement signed in Sudan in January 2005 between the Government and the rebels, and it endorsed the approach of the African Union in Sudan.

Democratic reform should take account of local conditions and should come from within society; it should not be a result of foreign pressure. The principle of non-interference in internal affairs should not be forgotten or the law of the jungle would prevail. His country supported the expansion of the United Nations Security Council, in particular the reservation of

two permanent seats for African States. In March 2004 the Egyptian parliament had hosted a session of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, an institution that served an important purpose. Women in the Middle East had suffered greatly from aggression and conflict, and needed to be protected. The Government of Egypt had promoted the full political involvement of women.

Mr R DE ALMEIDA (Angola) congratulated the President of the Assembly and the IPU President and thanked the Philippine Congress for its hospitality. He extended warm greetings to the Philippine people.

The theme chosen for the present general debate was particularly timely because serious discussion could generate solutions and contribute to good governance. Political parties and those parts of society that were concerned about equality must work with all sectors to ensure democracy. It was essential to establish a rule of law guaranteeing respect for the civil and political, economic and social rights of the majority of the population. To do so, it was essential to align political decisions relating to equal opportunity with a country's state of development. Today's necessary political reforms should not curtail the enjoyment of rights of some parts of society, such as women or minorities. Political action should be aimed today, as in the past, at making all people fully fledged citizens. Various problems were posed by development issues, especially overall poverty reduction and fighting poverty among women in particular. It was only through the application of suitable public policies that women's access to equal rights could be ensured. It was also important: to raise their level of education and lessen the impact of unemployment on family life; to broaden the range of social services, in particular to benefit more elderly people; to implement training programmes so that women could gain access to better paying jobs; and lastly, to encourage active participation in programmes such as those dealing with primary health care, gender health and the fight against HIV/AIDS.

By excluding women from decision-making in the political and economic arenas, society was depriving itself of a huge potential for growth, because the welfare of women, and their participation in society and politics, in particular, had positive impacts on society as a whole.

Mr O AL RAYYES (Bahrain) said that his country was small, but open to the experience of other countries in promoting gender equality. The Kingdom had enacted a series of laws to ensure full equality. As part of a broader Arab entity, it had to coordinate with its neighbours to allow the region to develop its own unique formula and devise its own reforms, taking into account the relevant international instruments. The Government of Bahrain had set up a committee with the task of securing equality and empowering women to reach high office. The King chaired a commission on gender equality. There were two female ministers in the cabinet, and the parliament was revising laws that obstructed the advancement of women, and promoting measures in support of women and children. The country's strategy was based on the Beijing Platform for Action. A special parliamentary committee was responsible for ensuring that all laws were in compliance with international standards. Development plans had been devised to secure full equality in health and education.

No female candidates had been elected in the most recent parliamentary elections, so the Government had had to resort to appointing six women to the parliament. That was insufficient, but he hoped for more success in the 2006 elections. Civil society was aware of the need to raise awareness of female candidates and to boost confidence in them.

The Government of Bahrain drew on experience from abroad in combating violence against women, a phenomenon that had an extremely damaging effect on society. Change would not be possible overnight, as it would take time to raise awareness, but change must come.

Mrs M-A THEOBALD (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – UNESCO) was pleased to address the Assembly on behalf of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Cooperation between her organisation and the IPU, which dated back to 1997, had recently been strengthened by the gradual development of a network of parliamentarians acting as "focal points".

UNESCO had for many years been convinced of the need to seek recognition and support for women in all the world's regions. It was known to all that there were still substantial disparities in women's status not only between developed countries and developing countries, but also within various countries. Since the end

of the United Nations Decade for Women in 1984, a number of studies had helped to give "the other half" of humanity some visibility. Yet no genuine efforts had been made to analyse or change relations between men and women or the underlying balance of power, although unequal relations between the sexes – the cause of women's marginalisation in society – persisted, despite the adoption of a host of strategies. That was also true in developed countries where disparities continued to exist, particularly in the area of political representation.

The pursuit of sustainable development – which aimed to reconcile economic and social progress without compromising the world's natural balance – presupposed that women should be given a major role to play. That had been acknowledged by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio Conference) in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. In short, sustainable development would not be possible if two thirds of the world's illiterate people continued to be women and if women continued to have no voice in scientific, political or economic bodies.

UNESCO's strategy for women aimed: to integrate gender relations in policy planning; to promote women's participation at all levels and in all areas of activity; and to develop programmes for women to foster equality, independence and citizenship. To that end, UNESCO had set certain priorities: firstly, to promote equal rights to education throughout life; to back equal access to training and professional opportunities in all areas; to encourage women's creativity and freedom of expression; and to defend human rights and equal opportunity. In addition, UNESCO wished to achieve parity within decision-making structures and help women build their capacities in carrying out responsibilities and preventing conflicts. UNESCO also urged member States to gather and analyse gender-disaggregated data with a view to developing more appropriate policies.

The speaker referred to the shattering consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic for women and girls, who were the most vulnerable victims. African women bore the brunt of the disease; indeed the only available weapons were education and prevention. UNESCO had decided to commit itself to the fight against AIDS by concentrating on those fields. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) would respond to the challenge, in line with UNESCO'S initiative, by

launching an educational campaign aimed at preventing the spread of the disease

On International Women's Day, 8 March 2005, UNESCO's Director-General had called for a collective effort to "to tackle ignorance, stereotypes and attitudes that work against the rights of women and girls and their rightful aspirations for equality" Firmly resolved to work in all areas so that women could achieve empowerment, UNESCO, in the words of its Director-General, invited its partners to join in the endeavour "to build a future with gender equality"

Mr E EESMAA (Estonia) said that the principle of equality between men and women was established in the constitutions of almost every country That did not mean that women enjoyed genuinely equal opportunities Many social systems worked to entrench gender inequality International conventions provided the necessary legal means to secure equality, but in many countries women's potential was still inadequately understood and under utilised

In Estonia, the authorities acknowledged the problem, and had made progress towards gender equality The Estonian Constitution prohibited discrimination on grounds of sex The draft European Union Constitution also promoted gender equality Estonia had ratified almost all of the main international instruments which banned gender discrimination Its Parliament had passed a Gender Equality Act There were many women's organisations engaged in issues relating to equal rights Almost one fifth of the members of the Estonian Parliament were women, and the Social Affairs and European Union Affairs Committees were chaired by women That relative success was no reason for complacency Compared to the Nordic countries, Estonia could do a great deal more to secure the position of women in society In particular, what was needed was a change in attitudes in the labour market, where the average salary of women continued to be lower than that of their male counterparts

Mr L JORDANOVSKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that since the eighteenth century it had been clear that progress and emancipation went hand in hand Men and women should enjoy equal rights and have equal duties Nonetheless, after three centuries, it was still necessary to discuss the issue of women's rights People could still be slaves to cultural and religious traditions

The outward appearance of equality had been achieved, but the inner reality was different

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had ratified all the international legal instruments that provided for rights and freedoms irrespective of gender, and it had introduced domestic legislation to achieve the same ends It was a requirement that at least 30 per cent of candidates in elections should be women As a result of the elections held in 2002, the proportion of women members of parliament had increased to 19 per cent, which was above the European average A women parliamentarians' club had been established; it included representatives from the Parliaments of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro Women chaired major parliamentary committees, including the Foreign Affairs and European Affairs Committees, and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Justice were both women Efforts to ensure that women were presented as candidates had begun to bear fruit The main objective was to increase the number of women representatives at the local government level

Mr M EL-TIGANI (Sudan) explained that the Sudan attached great importance to the role of women In 1953, women had been given the right to vote, and that had encouraged them to participate in education Currently more than 50 per cent of people in higher education were women, and women sat as judges

Terrorism was a concern for all countries It needed to be defined, as terrorism was not limited to any given religion or race The international community should work together to promote justice, achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and reduce the gap between rich and poor countries Third World countries were suffering because the deterioration in the economic situation has been compounded by the problem of debt Globalisation needed to take into consideration the requirements of the poor countries

The authorities in the Sudan were endeavouring to implement the agreement between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army That agreement had been the fruit of efforts made over the long term Both sides had agreed to share power Efforts continued to find a solution to the problems in Darfur under the auspices of the African Union United Nations Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) introduced a double standard and prevented the Sudanese

Government from bringing the criminals in the Darfur region to account

*Mr FM Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair*

Mr A MWANAMWAMBWA (Zambia) said that the social situation in the world was currently characterised by problems such as low incomes, widespread hunger, gender inequality, environmental degradation and a lack of education, health care and clean water. Previously unknown or unheard of diseases such as birdflu had wreaked havoc in some parts of the world. HIV/AIDS continued to affect those in the productive age group of 15 to 49 years, and caused considerable suffering, especially among women.

The Zambian economy had grown by 5 per cent in 2004 in the wake of the recovery in agriculture brought about by good rains and the Government's agricultural policies. The Government of Zambia had initiated deliberate measures with a gender dimension, in particular through the Transitional National Development Plan. Institutions had been established to implement gender and development activities, including the Gender in Development Division of the Cabinet Office. Programmes had been developed to build the capacity of businesswomen. Small-scale women farmers were receiving subsidies, and measures were being taken to overcome the barriers to access and ownership of property by women. Measures had also been taken in respect of access to education for girls. Life-skills training emphasised the HIV/AIDS pandemic and the role of girls. There had been a reduction in HIV/AIDS transmission among young people. A gender analysis framework had been developed through the national environment policy so that women were represented in decision-making positions in community-based structures. Civil society organisations played an important role by training and supporting female candidates in national elections. The victim support unit of the Zambian police had a sex crimes unit which provided services such as arresting and prosecuting offenders and providing counselling and shelter to victims of violence. Media reform would hopefully bring about gender equality in the media. More nevertheless needed to be done at the national and international levels.

The PRESIDENT suspended the debate to allow the Assembly to hear an address by Mr Robert Orr, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning,

representing the United Nations Secretary-General

**Address by Mr. Robert Orr,  
Assistant Secretary-General for  
Policy Coordination and Strategic  
Planning, representing the  
United Nations Secretary-General**

Mr R ORR, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning, representing the United Nations Secretary-General, said that the United Nations would appreciate the IPU's assistance on some of the reform issues included by the Secretary-General in his reform package, for some of them could affect the countries whose parliaments were represented in the Assembly. He was pleased to hear discussion in the Assembly of the MDGs, which were shaping the debate at the United Nations and at national level. Developing countries needed to devise national strategies to implement the MDGs, and assistance and resources would be required from developed countries. One objective for the latter was to ensure that 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) was allocated for official development assistance (ODA). The international community also needed to address environmental issues, especially climate change, and to start work on a replacement for the Kyoto Protocol, which would expire in 2012.

The Secretary-General had proposed that two new conventions be adopted, the first on terrorism and the second on the threat of nuclear terrorism. Major progress had been made in the past several weeks on the latter.

The reform package included a proposal for a new body, the Peacebuilding Commission, to assist countries emerging from conflict. Around 50 per cent of peace agreements failed within five years, and the new Commission would provide human and financial resources to help bring about a definitive end to conflict.

Three reforms were proposed regarding human rights, including strengthening support at the national level, establishing a new Human Rights Council whose members would be elected by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly, and following through on the implementation of human rights conventions.

The United Nations and the IPU needed to work together on providing assistance in building democratic institutions, and the reform package included a proposal for a democracy

fund that would be made available to governments, NGOs and parliaments. The United Nations would also appreciate the IPU's assistance and expertise in revitalising and reforming the General Assembly. It looked forward to greater collaboration with the IPU in the future.

### Item 2 of the agenda

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

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the list of requests for an emergency item found in document A/112/2-Inf 1 rev 1, as follows:

- Parliamentary initiatives in rebuilding nations affected by tsunamis and other natural disasters (Sri Lanka)
- The role of parliaments in rebuilding countries devastated by natural disasters (Algeria)
- The role of parliaments in contributing to international cooperation for the protection of children and other vulnerable members of society now living in alarming conditions in nations affected by the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean (Japan)
- Creation of a parliamentary fund to assist countries devastated by natural disasters (Chile)
- The role of parliaments in ensuring early warnings of natural disasters with highly severe consequences and in establishing a system ensuring quick reaction (Hungary)
- The role of parliaments in taking preventive measures and providing international technical and economic cooperation for the management of natural disasters (Turkey)
- Parliamentary support for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of countries affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami disaster, including prevention efforts aimed at establishing an early warning system in the Indian Ocean rim (Indonesia)

The role of parliaments in developing policies and institutional frameworks for reconstruction and rehabilitation of countries affected by the recent earthquakes and tsunami disaster, and for natural disaster risk reduction at national level, and in promoting international cooperation in natural disaster risk reduction and management, including the establishment of an early warning system (Islamic Republic of Iran)

Following consultation, their sponsors decided to bring only one item before the Assembly, as listed in document A/112/2-P 9:

Natural disasters: The role of parliaments in prevention, rehabilitation, reconstruction and the protection of vulnerable groups

Mr T FUKUI (Japan) presented the proposal on behalf of Sri Lanka, Algeria, Japan, Chile, Hungary, Turkey, Indonesia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami represented an immense natural disaster, with 300,000 lives lost in many countries. The subsequent earthquake in March 2005 had cost a further 1,300 lives. Fifty thousand disaster victims lived in fear of after shocks. He expressed his condolences to the people and countries affected and declared his support for the international relief effort. The request for the inclusion of an emergency item represented timely recognition that the issue should be addressed. It was important to develop disaster prevention mechanisms, bolster reconstruction in affected areas, and protect vulnerable members of the population. All natural disasters posed a great transnational threat to all countries, but developing countries were often particularly affected. The secondary effects of those disasters, such as food shortages and disease, also needed to be addressed. He encouraged all countries to develop effective disaster mechanisms, and paid tribute to the international community's response to the tsunami disaster.

In 2005, Japan had hosted a special conference on natural disasters and had contributed US\$ 500 million in emergency aid, including US\$ 250 million in humanitarian assistance through various international institutions. It had made donations to UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) and other international organisations, and had sent

240 members of the Japan Disaster Relief Medical Team to areas affected by the tsunami. The Japanese Self-Defence Forces had provided transport and medical services. Disasters could strike anywhere in the world, and other countries should be ready to offer assistance.

The PRESIDENT said that as there was no opposition to the request for inclusion of the emergency item, the request was unanimously agreed to.

*It was so agreed*

The SECRETARY GENERAL explained the procedure to be followed. There would be no separate debate on the item. Any discussion of it would take place within the general debate. The item would subsequently be sent directly to the drafting committee, which would finalise the draft resolution.

*It was so agreed*

*The agenda was modified accordingly*

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## Final Agenda

- Item 1 *Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly*
- Item 2 *Consideration of possible requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly Agenda*
- Item 3 *General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women*
- Item 4 *The role of parliaments in the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to provide for the judgement and sentencing of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, with a view to avoiding impunity*
- Item 5 *The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium development Goals*
- Item 6 *The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic*
- Item 7 *Approval of the subject items of the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs*
- Item 8 *Natural disasters The role of parliaments in prevention, rehabilitation, reconstruction and the protection of vulnerable groups*

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### Item 3 of the agenda

**General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr Y PETERMANN (International Committee of the Red Cross – ICRC) said that progress had been made since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action 10 years earlier, but much more work was needed. All too often women were still the most vulnerable members of societies affected by armed conflict; they

could be displaced, exploited and subjected to sexual violence. One specific tragedy was that of missing persons. Families were often split up during armed conflicts, either because the men were conscripted or as a result of forced dispersal. Family members often had no further news of their missing relatives. Usually the missing were men, with women being left to hold the family together. The plight of those women frequently went unrecognised, which added to their anguish. The problem had huge consequences at both the personal and the community levels. The ICRC aimed to re-establish family ties wherever possible. The International Conference on the Missing it had convened in February 2003 had produced recommendations subsequently adopted by the Twenty-eighth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in

December 2003 He urged members of the Assembly to press for the adoption of relevant domestic legislation in their countries, for instance to identify and protect detained individuals, and to safeguard personal data. The ICRC believed that families had the right to know what was happening to their loved ones. Concrete steps were needed to help them.

Mr HAN QIDE (China) said that the year 2005 was of special significance because it marked 60 years since the creation of the United Nations and five years since the adoption of the MDGs. Issues related to women were a major component of those goals. The rights of women had also been acknowledged in the Beijing Declaration, which had been adopted in 1995.

The international community was attaching greater importance to women's progress and gender equality. China was home to one fifth of the world's women, and had always supported women's rights. The Chinese Government had promoted two women's development programmes, and in 2004 had adopted a constitutional amendment containing new provisions safeguarding human rights. It had made remarkable progress in eliminating illiteracy, alleviating poverty and protecting employment rights for Chinese women.

The international situation was undergoing profound changes. Women's status across the world had been advanced, but conflicts, poverty, violence and disease still hindered the development of women's rights. The issue of women was not an isolated one, but should be incorporated within the general strategic framework of global development and peace. The international community had an obligation to help developing countries in their efforts to create an environment that fostered women's development. The IPU was an important platform for enhancing legislative coordination among countries in achieving that end. However, such cooperation had to be founded on mutual respect which took full account of the political, economic and cultural differences between countries.

*Mr R Kiely (Ireland), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Mr J-K YOO (Republic of Korea) said that all members of society needed to be equally represented. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women had been held in 1995, countries had made efforts to encourage

women to participate in politics. Those efforts had met with some success, but further efforts were needed. In the Republic of Korea, the proportion of representatives that were women had increased from 5 to 13 per cent.

The nuclear stand-off involving the People's Democratic Republic of Korea affected world security; it had to be resolved peacefully, through dialogue. The last talks had ended in June 2004; a further round was required. The international community stood behind a peaceful resolution and he thanked the Assembly for its support. He welcomed the delegates from the People's Democratic Republic of Korea and wished that they could sit together at both bilateral and international conferences. The Republic of Korea was sincerely grateful to Japan for its assistance over the nuclear issue, but felt that Japan needed to move beyond its colonial past. The two countries should work together and have a good relationship.

Mrs H HÖIJ (Sweden) noted that the IPU had taken significant steps to promote the role of women parliamentarians. It had set an example which should be followed in national parliaments, local constituencies and political groupings. In Sweden, 45 per cent of parliamentarians and 50 per cent of the members of the Government were women. But that was not enough. Gender equality needed to be qualitative as well as quantitative. Women were not always listened to and had less influence in decision-making. Good education was an effective tool to ensure respect for equal rights, with the same opportunities for both sexes. Education for all was the focus of the United Nations in the decade from 2005 to 2014. Education would also improve understanding of the HIV/AIDS problem. Parliamentarians must take full responsibility for implementing gender equality between men and women. Property rights and inheritance rights needed to be equal.

Mr S NEAV (Cambodia) said that the gap between rich and poor nations was increasing, as were starvation and disease. Globalisation had benefits, but it did not prevent poverty. Individuals who were unable to complete their education had little hope of a decent job and economic advancement. Women were often excluded from education and lacked basic skills. They were often forced into the illegal labour market, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. No place in the world was free from that plague.

Governments, parliaments and the people should work together to improve gender equality. In Cambodia, the budget for education had been increased, and more girls were staying in school and graduating. Efforts were being made to end discrimination in the workplace, both in the public and private sectors. A new labour law guaranteed job security for women on maternity leave. For many women life expectancy was short and the quality of life was poor. Maternal and infant mortality rates in Cambodia were among the highest in the world. Steps were being taken to end domestic violence and the exploitation of women. The population was being educated about the threats posed by psychological abuse and marital rape. Laws were required to address those issues and the problem of human trafficking, and the Cambodian parliament needed to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime. The international community should stand united against domestic violence and the exploitation of women, and should keep the interests of the people at heart.

Mr WEE KA SIONG (Malaysia) said that Malaysian women had made a significant contribution to the social and economic development of the country. They represented an important pool of resources and it was vital to preserve their rights and promote their advancement. The national policy on women was currently under review, and the country's five-year development plan placed a strong emphasis on the role of women. Malaysia was a signatory to several international conventions relating to women and the federal Constitution enshrined the principle of gender equality. Some multinationals, however, were continuing to practise discrimination, for example by imposing a mandatory retirement age of between 40 and 45 years on some women.

Significant progress had been made in Malaysia in ensuring equality for women. In 2001 the Government had established a Ministry for Women, Family and Community Development, and a cabinet committee had been established to monitor gender equality. The Government was able to obtain accurate information through its gender-disaggregated database. There was an upward trend in the number of women holding professional and management positions, and the number of women in parliament and in the cabinet had

also increased. The Government was setting goals for the public sector, and the Employment Act had been amended to allow women to work flexible hours. In terms of education, girls were staying longer in school and the number enrolling for most courses was on a par with that of boys. In short, the Government was providing a conducive environment for women in Malaysia.

Mr R. VAN DER LINDEN (Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - PACE) told the Assembly about a case that had been brought before the Council of Europe involving a young woman employed as a maid by a British family. The young woman had received no pay and had been subjected to physical abuse by her employers. The Council of Europe viewed such abuse as unacceptable and a violation of fundamental human rights.

Europe was not exempt from trafficking. A new convention on trafficking was being drafted to address this problem by ensuring human rights and providing for criminal proceedings when necessary.

The participation of women in elections was threatened in some countries by the practice of family voting. A new charter on women's rights sought to eliminate that practice and to rectify the underrepresentation of women in elected office, setting a target of 40 per cent representation for women by 2020 in member States. The Council of Europe also proposed that member States ensure adequate female representation in their IPU delegations, with a suggested minimum of 30 per cent female representation.

PACE had changed its rules to stipulate that each national delegation should contain members of both sexes. Despite this, two countries had continued to send all-male delegations. To show that it was serious about the rule change, PACE had suspended both those delegations. It had lifted the suspensions some months later, when a woman had been added to each delegation.

Effective measures were needed to end violence against women, which should not be regarded as a private affair but a public political issue. PACE had therefore requested 46 countries to improve their domestic legislation against domestic violence, thus demonstrating the seriousness with which it regarded the crime of domestic violence. Governments had an obligation to act.

He appreciated the Assembly's decision to stand in silence to mourn the death of Pope

John Paul II, who had been a champion of peace and human dignity

Mrs B BISHOP (Australia) said that countries which gave equal opportunities to all their citizens were the ones which were prosperous and successful, and that those which deprived themselves of the talents of half their populations were foolish. Australian women had full rights to take part in the life of the country. Debate about women's issues in Australia was focused on the quality of life. In particular, Australia, like most countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), had an ageing population. She was the Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee investigating those issues. Some of the policies under consideration to tackle the problem of ageing included encouraging people to retire later and to work to 70 years of age, and making it easier for women to re-enter employment.

Prosperous countries were in a better position to extend aid to their neighbours, as witnessed by the response to the recent tsunami. She had been Minister for Defence, Industry, Science and Personnel in the Australian Government when an earlier tsunami on the coast of Papua New Guinea had killed 2,500 people and made 10,000 homeless. In response to that disaster, the Australian Government had contributed money, sent in the Australian Defence Force and built a hospital. The December 2004 tsunami had caused much greater devastation, and that had touched Australian hearts. The general public had donated 280 million Australian dollars to help rebuild the affected parts of Aceh, Sri Lanka and other areas. The Australian Government had put together a package of aid for Indonesia which consisted of 500 million Australian dollars in direct grants, and an equivalent sum in loans. After the second major earthquake struck in Indonesia in March 2005, further Australian help had been sent. Sadly, 48 hours earlier nine Australian Defence Force personnel had been killed when a Sea King helicopter involved in the aid effort had crashed. Australia mourned their deaths, but that would not distract it from the need to assist. Sixty million Australian dollars in further government aid had been provided.

Mr T KAWARA (Japan) expressed deep sympathy to the victims of the December 2004 tsunami and their families, as well as to those who had suffered from the second earthquake

in March 2005. Japan had offered US\$ 500 million worth of assistance. That included US\$ 250 million for UNICEF, whose two principal objectives were to prevent the spread of infectious disease and stop the trafficking of children. It was essential to help women who had lost their livelihoods and homes. The Japanese delegation had therefore proposed an emergency item for the Assembly's agenda, on the subject of the tsunami disaster.

The disaster had underlined the importance of regional cooperation. A summit of East Asian parliamentarians would be held later in 2005 to discuss a range of issues, including measures to combat piracy and terrorism, protect the environment, and provide greater support for women and children. Elsewhere in the world, the recent elections held in Iraq had marked the start of the process of rebuilding the Iraqi nation for the benefit of its people. Japan was happy to offer assistance for that process. The Japanese Government had donated medical support and hospitals, was providing water for 55,000 people, and was building roads and schools.

It was essential to reform the United Nations. New international frameworks should be developed to help those who could not benefit from globalisation. Greater cooperation between parliaments would help to protect the vulnerable, especially women and children.

Mr S CHATTERJEE (India) expressed concern that 30 years after the first International Women's Year, many women were still politically, economically and socially underprivileged in comparison with men. Politically, women were underrepresented in the decision-making apparatus, government structures and upper echelons of political parties. Women would only be empowered when they were equal partners in the decision-making structures. Women suffered economically and economic empowerment therefore must share equal priority with political empowerment. Serious health, employment and social problems harmed women around the world. Rural and migrant women were particularly affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and inadequate health care. In India the emphasis had shifted from women's welfare to the empowerment of women. The Indian Government aimed to help women advance and participate in decision-making based on power-sharing. The judicial system needed to be sensitive to women's needs. The current five-year plan in India created an enabling environment to make women economically

independent Progress had been made by improving the reproductive rights of women. Education had become a fundamental right. Measures were being taken to protect women from harassment and domestic violence and to stop sex-selective abortion. The Women's Component Plan aimed to ensure that at least 30 per cent of funds and benefits were provided to women and women-related sectors. The women's self-help group movement had strengthened women's empowerment. One third of seats on local bodies had been reserved for women; over one million women had become active partners in the political process as a result. India had acceded to international instruments addressing women's rights and gender issues. Significant progress has been made, but greater efforts were required. Parliamentarians played a crucial role in creating conditions conducive to gender equality.

Mr R CETIN (Turkey) said that the priority was to promote human rights, gender equality and economic growth. Efforts needed to be strengthened to encourage the empowerment of women. Turkey had acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1985 and had adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention in 2002. The legal system had been changed in order to advance the rights of women. There was full equality between men and women within the family. Property and inheritance rights had also been modified. There had been an improvement in the recruitment of women in the public service. Changes in the legal field were needed to prevent violence against women. Currently, services including counselling and shelter were being provided for battered women. Those services were extended to women threatened by violence. Turkish legislation met international standards.

Mr A MUKEZAMFURA (Rwanda) extended a warm greeting to the people and Government of the Philippines and thanked them for their hospitality. He said that his country, Rwanda, was currently commemorating the genocide that in 1994 had claimed the lives of one million of his compatriots. He invited delegates to join his country in remembering that painful period of history.

Rwandan women had particularly suffered from the genocide and crimes against humanity, and continued to pay the

consequences. They deeply regretted the weakness of the mechanisms that had been established to stop such scourges. The international community lacked cohesion. The fact that corrupt individuals had orchestrated plans to wipe out entire peoples, including women, children, elderly persons and sick people, represented a disastrous failure and called for the leaders of the international community to do their utmost to break the vicious circle of crime.

In many countries represented at the Assembly, people who had planned, organised and led the Rwandan genocide were still alive, enjoying total impunity, openly and publicly, and with the knowledge of the authorities. All Assembly participants deplored the absence of will, but did not give themselves the means with which to act. He exhorted countries to take concrete measures to bring the criminals to justice, either in their host countries or before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, despite its shortcomings and Rwanda's grievances against it. In the meantime, the *gacacas*, or courts based on the traditional judicial system, had in 2005 started trying people for the genocide in Rwanda.

Discussions before the current Assembly should also focus on HIV/AIDS prevention strategies, management and treatment, with strict respect for human rights. In Rwanda, as elsewhere, AIDS was rampant, and women were the first to suffer, despite the efforts made and strategies implemented to contain the pandemic. Further, many people infected with the AIDS virus were stigmatised by society and at work. As legislators and opinion-makers, parliamentarians should ensure the legal protection of those people whose only desire was to avoid being victims twice over.

With regard to the status of women in Rwanda and the promotion of equality, it was encouraging that the 2003 Constitution had allotted at least 30 per cent of decision-making posts to women. Results had surpassed expectations. After the legislative elections of September 2003, women held 48.8 per cent of seats in the Chamber of Deputies, putting Rwanda in first place worldwide. However, much remained to be done in areas such as education, health, employment and access to credit. The Government of Rwanda did not aim to do women a favour, but rather to give them the means to carry out fully their role in the life of their country. Its action was based on a social and economic vision that considered access to education, physical welfare and

citizenship as inalienable rights for men and women

Another positive note was the trend developing in a number of conflicts that had devastated Africa, particularly in the Great

Lakes region. Peace agreements and elections seemed to be in the cards in many countries, and that was a good sign. Rwanda was ready to take part in that process.

*The meeting rose at 6 30 p.m.*

## Sitting of Tuesday, 5 April (Morning)

*The meeting was called to order at 9 15 a.m. with Mr. F.M. Drilon (Philippines) President of the Assembly in the Chair.*

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr N CHERGINETS (Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and the Russian Federation) said his Parliamentary Assembly had sought good relations with various international organisations. It believed that contacts with the IPU would allow it to enrich its work and tap into a multitude of ideas on parliamentary democracy.

The subject of the general debate was both important and complex. Women faced a variety of challenges. They received on average between 30 and 40 per cent less pay than men. Only 10 to 20 per cent of decision-making positions were held by women, and domestic violence posed a major problem. Governments had only partly addressed those challenges.

His Parliamentary Assembly had been working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a project to prevent trafficking of women, and would be holding a workshop on the issue in Minsk in May 2005. Human trafficking was a global threat that undermined the security and stability of States. Women from Belarus and the Russian Federation were exported to many countries, primarily in the Middle East and Europe, where they were routinely subjected to sexual exploitation. On that point, the rhetoric of European countries had not been matched by practical action.

He hoped that international cooperation and discussion of the issue would help identify

additional means for fighting the modern slave trade and other related problems such as drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS and terrorism. He invited delegates to participate in the Minsk workshop.

*Mr. J.-K. Yoo (Republic of Korea), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr S BABURIN (Russian Federation) said that his country had taken the lead in reducing debt among developing countries. Between 1998 and 2002 the Russian Federation had written off a total of US\$ 11.2 billion owed by African States. It had taken a leading position within the Group of 8 (G8) on the issue as well.

Discussion of women's issues had received greater international attention in recent years, most notably through the Beijing Platform for Action and at the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Gender equality was often better developed in countries with an active civil society. The Russian Government believed that women's participation in society was crucial. In the Russian Federation, women made up around half of the labour force, and there were more women than men in higher education. Sixty per cent of judges and the deputy speakers in both chambers of parliament were women. Equality was guaranteed under the Constitution, and the Government was in the process of updating legislation to ensure there was no gender discrimination.

An important component of gender equality was the promotion of the role of the family. Greater secularisation during the Soviet period and the rampant individualism of the previous decade had undermined the traditional role of the family in the Russian Federation. It was important to maintain a reasonable balance between the status of women and the status of the family. The latter needed to be improved to allow women to develop their role within society. The Russian Government would be placing the issue of gender equality and the related issues of

HIV/AIDS and human trafficking at the centre of the agenda when it chaired the G8 Summit in 2006. Half a century earlier, the world had faced a fundamental challenge from Nazism. The threat posed by the current global deterioration in values was no less serious.

Mr F-X de DONNEA (Belgium) thanked the President of the Senate and the Philippine people for their warm welcome. In order to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it was also necessary to ensure good governance and fight against corruption. Those were determining factors in achieving social cohesion, as they had a bearing on the success or failure of economic growth, environmental protection and respect for human rights. That had been highlighted in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which pointed to the need for transparency in financial, monetary and trade systems, which had also been recognised by the Heads of State and Government when they had met in Monterrey. The European Union (EU) also considered those objectives to be a priority.

In fact, studies showed that poor governance and corruption significantly reduced the efficiency of poverty reduction programmes. Amartya Sen, the Nobel Prize laureate in economics, had proven that famines did not occur in countries with a free press and genuine democracy.

Good governance and the fight against corruption were closely linked because corruption weakened the government's credibility and the legitimacy of democracy. More often than not, corruption was tantamount to a tax on the poor. When it affected the judicial system, it resulted in a denial of rights; when it affected the administration, it led to an inequitable distribution of public services. In those conditions, cooperation agreements and tolerance of corruption were incompatible. The Cotonou Agreement could, in that respect, serve as a model, in that it featured a commitment to good governance, considered to be an element of partnership. In addition, all gross acts of corruption were deemed to be breaches of the Agreement, in which case corrective measures should be taken.

The fight against poverty and social injustice, part of the fight against the root causes of terrorism and civil war, could not be limited to increasing aid and reducing the debt. As important as they were, those solutions did not suffice without measures designed to promote good governance, strengthen

democracy and fight against corruption. Those measures should be carried out before developing specific programmes.

Mr R D VIVAS (Venezuela) thanking the Philippine people for their warm hospitality, stressed that his country, Venezuela, was engaged in a revolutionary democratic process under the leadership of President Chavez based on principles of equality, fraternity and liberty, with the promotion of social justice, human rights, respect for the people's will, the sovereignty of all countries and the right to self-determination. In 1999 a broad public debate had been launched in Venezuela; millions of citizens had voted on a draft Constitution calling for a new society, granting, in particular, women the right to participate fully in public life. It had been approved by referendum by a majority of citizens. Next, the parliament of Venezuela, in accordance with the Bolivarian Constitution, had approved a law entitling women to rights in all areas of life: the right to education and equal opportunity, economic and political rights and freedom of association. The aim had been to fully recognise the role of women in the new society.

The promotion of equality and the enhancement of women's status helped to draw up a new social model that went beyond capitalism and its corollary, poverty of the masses. Latin American parliamentarians wished to build together the socialism of the twenty-first century and establish a better world for all peoples, a new world order, unlike the neoliberal capitalist model promoted by the Bush Administration. President Chavez's policy was both anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist, opposing intervention in the internal affairs of States such as Afghanistan, Haiti, Iraq and others. As seen in Venezuela, the United States certainly did not hesitate to meddle in a country's domestic political affairs. Its Government had been behind the coup d'état of April 2002 and the sabotage of the oil industry; it had financed the opposition and misleading media campaigns, such as those led by CNN. Those attempts had been aimed at depriving Venezuela, fighting for democracy and people's rights, of its freedom. In order to eradicate poverty, it was necessary to give power to the people in a truly multipolar world.

Mrs M MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) said that Namibia was thriving on the principles of the rule of law and democracy. On 21 March 2005 the people of Namibia had reaffirmed their sovereignty and had celebrated a peaceful

transition to a new presidency. Two opposition parties had challenged the Electoral Commission of Namibia in the High Court. After a recount, the High Court had ruled that the National Assembly elections had been free and fair, which demonstrated that democracy and judicial independence existed in Namibia.

Namibia placed strong emphasis on the MDGs. Women's legal rights and status had undergone a radical change for the better since independence. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Welfare had been created, and gender equality remained one of Namibia's priorities. Women accounted for 27 per cent of the members of the new parliament, the new Deputy Prime Minister was a woman and 19 per cent of ministerial positions were held by women; there nevertheless remained much to do. All parliamentarians should support an initiative launched by the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to commence a dialogue for peace between women from Africa and women from developed countries.

The Government of Namibia had adopted a national gender policy and plan of action. The Constitution made provision for the family as a basic human right and for equal rights in marriage and divorce. Namibia was characterised by the social activism of its residents and their visible involvement in the country's affairs. The HIV/AIDS epidemic was having a profound effect on the national economy. Her country was addressing the adverse impact of stigma and discrimination. Significant steps had been taken in respect of HIV/AIDS treatment and there had been a drop in the HIV prevalence rate. Africa required partnership internally and with the developed world.

There were two major constraints on trade: not enough goods of the right quality and prices were produced for world markets, and taxation. Africa needed to make internal changes, and rich nations had to dismantle the barriers they had erected against African goods. Rich countries should honour their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to official development assistance (ODA) and to cancel 100 per cent of the debt burden in sub-Saharan Africa.

*Mr R E Nailatikau (Fiji), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Mr S M YAHYAVI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the world was facing challenges from extremism, terrorism, violence and

unilateralism, which damaged human society. Instability in one country affected neighbouring countries and regions. Disappointed people were resorting to violence in situations of occupation. The root causes of terrorism had to be identified and tackled, and a consensus reached on a comprehensive definition of terrorism.

Complete nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear power were the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They should not be undermined. The Islamic Republic of Iran had promoted the idea of dialogue between civilised societies in order to deal with global challenges. The peoples of Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan were experiencing difficulties. The situation in Iraq was improving, and the Iranian Government had encouraged the participation of Iraqis in the elections there. Iranians wanted a stable and free Iraq.

The only lasting solution in Palestine would be for Israel to withdraw, for Palestinian refugees to return and for an independent Palestinian State to be established.

The IPU Assembly offered delegates the opportunity to exchange experiences, which would help them overcome the common problems they faced.

Mr M AL-HULWAH (Saudi Arabia) said that the IPU Assembly provided the opportunity to discuss and resolve common problems. In several countries conflict was eroding the peoples' hope for peace. The world was facing dramatic cultural and social changes, but attempts to impose foreign cultures and values could have only negative consequences. It was necessary to promote human rights to ensure that the whole of humanity would benefit.

In Saudi Arabia full gender equality was guaranteed, except for areas where it was necessary to recognise the differences between the sexes. Saudi Arabia had signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had provided opportunities for women to work, to participate in conferences on women's issues, and to occupy an increasing number of important positions. Important programmes had been introduced in the spheres of health and the family, including measures relating to abortion and the dissolution of families. Society must not renounce its traditional values.

It was important to respect the human rights of the Palestinian people, who continued to suffer repression. He called on the

international community to impose on Israel the obligations set out in various United Nations Security Council resolutions and under international law. The Arab peace proposals, such as that put forward by Saudi Arabia at the 2002 Arab League Summit in Beirut, had been rejected by Israel.

In Iraq, people were still suffering from the violence. The international community needed to provide support to ensure the elections there would end the tragedy and lead to a new era of prosperity.

Ms O A STARRFELT (Norway) said that it was important to continue the fight for full gender equality and to avoid complacency. Even in Norway, the achievements of recent decades were under threat. Female representation in parliament had declined in recent years. More work was required to ensure equal pay and to allow women to reach the top levels in business. The emphasis on women's issues in development programmes had declined because of the policy of "gender mainstreaming", which often led to those issues being neglected. Female education should be improved and land ownership laws reformed to combat the lack of female influence in decision-making processes. Much work was left to do, especially for parliaments.

Mr M TESHOME (Ethiopia) said that the IPU Assembly provided an opportunity to establish a consensus on the various issues of concern at both the national and international levels. The MDGs had a crucial role to play in promoting human rights, peace, respect for the environment and gender equality. In previous decades development programmes had focused on economic goals and had neglected social development, including gender equality. Developed countries now recognised the importance of providing more effective aid, promoting sustainable development and pushing forward debt relief, insofar as developing countries were adopting the philosophy of the MDGs.

In Ethiopia there had been some progress in promoting gender equality, including the adoption of measures empowering women to own land and granting access to credit. Increasing the role of women was of paramount importance for the country's future development, but there was still some way to go. The Government had introduced a legal basis for gender equality, but practical measures had to be put in place. One such measure was the Government's decision to

reserve 30 per cent of the seats in the federal parliament and 50 per cent of the seats in the regional councils for women.

Mr M BAS (Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation – PABSEC) said that since its inception PABSEC had strengthened relations between its members. PABSEC was a forum for dialogue between parliamentarians and had brought about improvements in the region and facilitated a process of modernisation. Boosting intraregional trade and investment was one of its long-term aims. PABSEC had encouraged cooperation between local authorities and regional radio and television companies. The presidency attached great importance to working with the European Parliament. PABSEC was not directly involved in peacekeeping or conflict resolution, but it could promote objectivity and debate the issues. The recommendations it adopted furthered cooperation and led to regional agreements and treaties. The movement of people and goods across borders and cultural heritage were two of the items discussed at the twenty-fourth Plenary Session; a statement on the contribution to stability and security was also discussed. PABSEC was working on the environmental problems existing in the Black Sea region. The experience gained from the IPU of cooperation between parliaments was a useful example. He hoped there would be further mutual cooperation in the future.

Mrs F ALI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the Assembly had convened in challenging circumstances. The gap between rich and poor had widened, and the threats of weapons of mass destruction, violence, terrorism and failure to respect international law had paved the way for a surge in violence around the world. It was necessary to bolster mutual respect, equality and non-discrimination, and to tackle the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Her country had recognised the need voluntarily to halt its nuclear programme. Terrorism was to be condemned, but its causes had to be studied. The term had to be defined, and a distinction must be made between terrorism and the struggle for self-determination.

She condemned the Israeli occupation of Palestine and affirmed her support for the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon, and for the people of Iraq, while calling for the departure of the occupying forces and for compensation for the people of Iraq. She reaffirmed that the Sudan was a sovereign State, and said that

while there should be a peaceful settlement in the Darfur region, the African Union was working well there and foreign involvement should be avoided

Women in Libya exercised their full rights and held important government positions both nationally and internationally. A mechanism was needed to tackle the crisis of foreign debt. Poor countries were suffering because of increased marginalisation. The problems of debt and debt servicing should be studied in depth. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had created a national centre for combating HIV/AIDS, but a crime against humanity had been committed when about 400 children had been injected with the virus.

Mrs P M IVĂNESCU (Romania) thanked her Philippine hosts for their warm hospitality and stressed that the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing had highlighted the need to reinforce equal opportunities for men and women. The Romanian Government felt strongly about modifying its legislation in that area, harmonising it, in particular, with European legislation on women's rights. A law on equal opportunity for men and women had thus been adopted in 2002 with a view to eliminating direct and indirect discrimination in all spheres. An amendment to the Constitution in 2003 went in the same direction. Lastly, in 2004 the law had specified that all lists of candidates for legislative elections and local and departmental councils should include both men and women. Further, Romania had signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as other international instruments.

The Romanian Government had instituted a mechanism designed to further women's advancement in three areas: government, the parliament and society. Various specialised structures had been set up, including the National Agency for Family Protection and the National Agency for Equal Opportunity for Men and Women.

However, as was known to all, much depended on women's opportunities to influence political decisions. To date, roughly 10 per cent of Romanian parliamentary deputies were women; in the Senate, women's representation had risen from 6 to 10 per cent. Those figures might seem low, but what had changed was that women were henceforth taking part in decision-making bodies of the two chambers, in the standing committees and political groups.

She drew attention to the unacceptable fate of journalists – and women journalists in particular – who had been abducted in Iraq and other countries, victims of terrorism. That called for a firm, concerted response from parliamentarians worldwide.

Mrs A HATIRA (Tunisia) thanked the Philippine people for their hospitality and called for a more fraternal world society, characterised by good neighbourly relations and respect for individual freedoms. She commended the IPU for its efforts, in particular its promotion of women, who were the driving force behind sustainable development. Chronic injustice such as the spread of poverty, environmental degradation and the worsening burden of foreign debt must be combated; naturally, women had a major role to play in that area, provided all forms of discrimination against them were eliminated.

The Tunisian Government had carried out – and continued to carry out – an active policy in that area. Happily, the international community had responded positively to the appeal launched by President Ben Ali to set up an international development fund. Indeed, favourable developments would be possible for all only if the notion of fair partnership was espoused. With that in mind, the Government of Tunisia had striven to implement the Beijing Platform for Action to include women in development efforts, reconciling modernity and tradition without turning its back on the country's values. Thanks to its clear political will, Tunisia had become a pioneer in that area. Various mechanisms had been set up and measures had been taken to ensure equal opportunities for men and women; meaningful progress had already been made. Henceforth, women were contributing fully to legislative reform and essential structural adjustments. To date, they held 20 per cent of city council seats, and 25 per cent of all judges were women.

Mrs E KALSBECK (Netherlands) said that in the Netherlands politics had influenced the position of women. The legislation enacted between 1918 and 1994 had had a positive impact, but it had not been the only reason that position had improved. The main struggle – the cultural change required – had been led by courageous women, but oppression and unequal treatment had not yet disappeared. More women than men were studying at university, but more girls and women were being maltreated and sexually abused. The Netherlands Government had developed an

intensive programme to counter domestic violence and abuse within the family. Women in the Netherlands took more responsibility for childcare than men and therefore had fewer opportunities for paid employment and a career, but the number of men taking some responsibility for childcare was growing. Part-time work to facilitate childcare was common in the Netherlands for both men and women. New challenges were arising as the number of cultures represented in the Netherlands rose. The circumcision of women was prohibited, as were honour killings, but they still took place. Some women and girls were forced to stay at home and were not able to develop. Whether or not foreign immigrant girls should be able to enjoy different kinds of education, for example swimming lessons separate from boys, was a topic of fierce political debate. Young immigrants sometimes felt rebuffed and discriminated against, leading them to withdraw to their original cultural identity. Culture was continually changing, and parliamentarians needed to make a firm stand for individuals.

Mrs A MANAFOVA (Azerbaijan) said that women had an important role to play in society. In Azerbaijan, women played an active role in parliament and in industry, but they should not be satisfied with the status quo. In many countries, the highest positions of government were reserved for men.

Women and children continued to be subject to violence, especially in areas of conflict. Fifteen per cent of Azerbaijan's territory remained under occupation, and around one million people had been displaced from their homes. In 1992 the town of Azhali had suffered many atrocities, but neither the parliament of Azerbaijan nor the IPU had expressed an opinion on the events. Perhaps the IPU could set up a special commission to monitor the situation of Azeri women and children who were still effectively imprisoned in Armenia; such a move would have a positive impact.

*Mr F M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.*

The PRESIDENT suspended the debate to allow Mr Alberto G Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, to address the Assembly.

### **Address by Mr. Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines**

Mr A G ROMULO, *Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines*, paid tribute to the life and work of Pope John Paul II.

As a member of the Philippine Senate, he had had first-hand experience of the important role parliamentarians played in the formulation and conduct of foreign policy. He had also seen the IPU play an increasingly crucial role in shaping the future of the world. International efforts to build a better future could only succeed in partnership with parliamentarians. The world had grown smaller but was infinitely more complex, and current challenges required a collective response. Parliamentarians brought a distinct perspective that was vital for building consensus and for shaping future development.

It was important to strengthen multilateralism, and the IPU provided positive proof that multilateralism could work. Dialogue would lead to consensus based on the common good, and the Philippine Government believed it was an important tool in building tolerance and understanding. Terrorism could not be defeated by force alone; greater tolerance and understanding were also needed. The Philippines had taken the lead in promoting greater inter-faith dialogue and had sponsored a historic General Assembly resolution on that issue in 2004. Resolution 59/23 had been adopted by consensus and affirmed that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue were vital.

On human rights, the United Nations reform package proposed replacing the Commission on Human Rights with a Council that would more accurately reflect the emphasis on human rights contained in the United Nations Charter. The Philippine Government endorsed the proposals put forward by the United Nations Secretary-General.

His Government believed that implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action was vital to achieving the MDGs, and looked forward to the high-level plenary meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, or Millennium +5, to be held in the autumn of 2005. Closer cooperation was required for the achievement of the MDGs, to which the Philippine Government, consistent with the Philippine development plan, was committed. Broad access to trade was required for developing countries' economies. The IPU had an important role to play in narrowing the huge income gap that remained between rich

and poor. It should reaffirm its commitment to trade liberalisation and an equitable multilateral trade system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Developing countries could only realise the benefits of globalisation under the WTO if all its members fulfilled the commitments made at Doha. The IPU should encourage developed WTO members to provide opportunities for developing countries to create markets for commodities.

Solon of Athens had shown the way. Great wisdom and commitment were needed and those who had resources, connections and power needed to be challenged. Parliamentarians needed to be willing to listen to others and to implement reforms at home.

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

##### *Resumption of the debate*

Mr C HENG CHING (Singapore) said that Singapore was guided by the principle of meritocracy. That translated into equal opportunities for men and women. In Singapore, women were as highly valued as men. Women had to be given access to education and health care if they were to compete on an equal footing with men. The Government of Singapore believed that education was a fundamental resource which should be given equally to both girls and boys. It had aligned itself with Millennium Development Goal 2 of universal primary education for boys and girls. The Government placed a high priority on health care and was attentive to the special health care needs of women, as demonstrated by Singapore's increasing life expectancy for women, decreasing maternal mortality rate and low infant mortality rate.

Women in Singapore were empowered to participate in the economic activities of the nation and to generate wealth for themselves. They had equal opportunities to participate in paid work. Thirty-one per cent of corporate managers were women. The country's women had made significant progress in politics since the new Prime Minister had made women part of his team in 2001. Out of 84 elected MPs,

10 were women. Children born overseas were able to acquire Singaporean citizenship from their Singaporean mothers. International instruments had also had an impact on women in Singapore: Singapore had acceded to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1995, and in 2002 had ratified the Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No 100) of the International Labour Organisation. Employers and unions should incorporate a clause on equal remuneration in their collective agreements. Women had made significant progress in the economic, social and political spheres in Singapore.

Mrs M-O LOROUGNON GNABRY (Cote d'Ivoire), speaking on behalf of her country's delegation, thanked the Philippine people and the organisers of the Assembly for their hospitality and for the quality of the working conditions. The theme chosen for the general debate was particularly relevant because throughout the twentieth century the promotion of women had been the focus of all thought on development policy. There was, however, a gap between reality and the law, and despite some advances, women's rights were not fully respected. In Côte d'Ivoire women's contributions to development were recognised, and women took an active part in the country's social and political life. However, their role as a life-giving force was not reflected in calculations of the gross national product (GNP).

After the International Women's Year was held in 1975, a ministry of women's affairs had been set up, which had subsequently become the Ministry of the Family, Women and Children. Nevertheless, changes had not been as far-reaching as expected. Côte d'Ivoire had ratified all the conventions relating to women's rights, including the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It had also implemented recommendations arising from relevant meetings in Mexico City (1975), Copenhagen (1980), Nairobi (1985), Cairo (1994), Beijing (1995) and the Beijing + 5 Summit (2000). Domestic law had been amended to ban genital mutilation and specific provisions for pregnant women had been added to the Labour Code. However, discrimination, disparities and traditional social attitudes prevailed, and the crisis which had broken out in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2004 had also had dire effects on women. In a society in which men held the reins of power,

women were all too often deprived of property rights and social benefits. There were still considerable hurdles to be cleared before an equal footing with men would be achieved.

Emphasis should be placed on specific measures to wipe out discrimination and facilitate women's access to political life by means of institutional provisions, specialised committees, advocacy campaigns, financial support, wider access to science and new technologies and healthier living conditions, particularly in respect of HIV/AIDS.

Mr CHOE THAE BOK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his country was actively working with progressive countries to build a new world. Asian women had suffered much in the past, and it was significant that the Assembly was being held in Asia and was discussing the role of women. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was working to advance women's rights. In his country, women had suffered greatly under Japanese colonial rule, and many women and girls had been forced to be sex slaves. Only after liberation had women been able to play a full part in society with rights in politics, the economy and culture. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea was able to safeguard its sovereignty thanks to General Kim Jong Il's *Songun*, or army-first policies. It was proud of its military forces. The United States had attempted to suffocate the country and threatened its security. The Bush administration had forced it to suspend its participation in the six-party talks and had compelled it to reinforce its nuclear arsenal. He hoped that the Korean peninsula would be free of nuclear weapons. Mr Bush's hostile policy needed to be converted to one of peaceful coexistence, and the United States must apologise for calling the Democratic People's Republic of Korea an outpost of tyranny. The people of his country would never abandon their lives to foreign invaders. They loved peace and appreciated its value more than anyone else in the world. They would achieve national reunification under the banner of "By our nation itself", as set forth in the Inter-Korean Joint Declaration of 15 June 2000.

Mr A MAHMOUD (Yemen) said that since reunification in 1990 the Yemeni Constitution had been based on democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. Legislation provided for gender equality in most spheres, but it would take time to overcome the

negative elements of the country's social heritage.

International relations were becoming imbalanced at a time of growing reliance on the use of force and the emergence of double standards. The United States Government had put pressure on the Palestinian and Syrian leaderships, but had turned a blind eye to Israeli crimes against humanity. In Iraq, the pretexts for war had lost their justification. The Yemeni parliament had called for an end to the occupation and for the re-establishment of full Iraqi sovereignty. The unethical practices of the occupying forces, especially abuse of those held in detention, should be halted. United States pressure on the Syria Arab Republic, Lebanon and the Sudan represented an attempt to overcome resistance to Israeli expansionism in the region. Peace in the Middle East remained a distant hope. Israel and the United States had departed from the fundamental principle of "land for peace", and the United States Government could no longer be considered an honest broker. He called on the international community to press for a just peace based on a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories, full restoration of Palestinian rights and the establishment of a Palestinian State. Israel should also be pressed to renounce weapons of mass destruction.

The campaign against terrorism had become confused with a clash of civilisations. Anti-terrorism policies had served opportunistic purposes. The distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right to resist occupation had been lost.

He expressed his condolences to the Christian world on the death of Pope John Paul II and his support for those affected by the tsunami disaster.

Mr A LIGALE (Kenya) said that women remained a disadvantaged group in many parts of the world and that their interests had been overlooked in both policy formulation and decision-making. In many cases they had been completely locked out by the political leadership. The fact that gender equality continued to dominate the international agenda showed that international forums had not achieved much. Many charters and conventions had been signed, but governments had done little to honour their undertakings. The issues raised by the Beijing Platform for Action were as relevant as ever, and the gap between men and women was nowhere near being closed. Cultural and social practices often exacerbated gender gaps, but any measures of reform had

to be sensitive to local considerations. Many cultures were patriarchal in nature, which perhaps explained why women voters often failed to elect women to parliament.

The Beijing target of ensuring that 33 per cent of people in administration and political leadership structures would be women by 2000 had not been achieved. Very few countries had achieved the United Nations target of having women in 30 per cent of positions at decision-making levels by 1995.

Kenya had signed many of the international conventions on gender equality, and the Kenyan Parliament currently had the highest female representation in its history: 18 out of 222 members of parliament were women. Many women had been appointed to key positions in the Government.

Mr G NOUMEIR (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking on behalf of his country's delegation, expressed his appreciation to the Philippine Government for its fine organisation of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the warm welcome it had extended to the delegation.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which shared common borders with several countries, had lost part of its territory in the Golan during the war of 6 June 1967, when Israel had occupied the Golan Heights. The Syrian Government approached the problem with a strategic vision, in the spirit of the Madrid Conference, but was opposed to the stance of the United States, which had a double standard. For example, the Syrian Arab Republic applied United Nations General Assembly resolution 1559, but the decisions of the Security Council were not applied by Israel, which regrettably acted with the support of the United States. Relations with other neighbouring countries were excellent. The Syrian Arab Republic had intervened in Lebanon at the Lebanese people's request and in their Government's best interests. It had put an end to the civil war, afforded its protection and helped the Lebanese people to stave off the Israeli occupation. For the same reasons, i.e. Lebanon's best interests, Syrian forces were now pulling out of the country: what was good for Lebanon was good for the Syrian Arab Republic.

Iraq's territorial integrity was an issue of concern. In that connection, he stressed that Syrian borders were not open to terrorists, and were checked regularly. The Palestinian people should be able to choose their Government freely and negotiate peace with Israel. The Syrian Arab Republic, for its part, was not immune to terrorism, which did exist in the

region and was fuelled by hate and the desire to wreak destruction. The Syrian Government cherished the dream of peace and friendship among independent peoples and a spirit of respect for national interests.

Syrian women had for 20 years played a leading role in modernising the country. Gender equality and women's empowerment were a vital issue for developing countries, where traditional cultural attitudes often hindered the exercise of new rights for women. The Government had adopted a series of measures aimed at increasing women's participation in public life, and had ratified conventions drafted by the international community and the Beijing Platform for Action. Significant strides had been made in the economic and educational sectors. Women represented half of society, and should be entitled to the same rights as men.

Hopefully, the present meetings would help enhance the status of women, make society fairer and the world safer, and reduce injustice and war.

Mrs I ALLENDE BUSSI (Chile) thanked the Philippine Government and people for their kindness and generous hospitality. Good intentions, declarations of principle, conventions and proposals were unfortunately soon forgotten where women's rights were concerned. In many countries, women continued to suffer from discrimination and to be victims of rape and other forms of violence. Why had progress been so slow? Was there a lack of will? Was it a problem of legislation or of culture?

In Chile, women were gradually becoming fully empowered citizens, sharing the same rights and responsibilities as men. Legislative changes wrought since the 1990s had made such progress possible, and public policies played a major role in that development, but there was still much to be accomplished. Two constitutional amendments had been instrumental in improving women's rights, and Chile had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, but it had not ratified the Additional Protocol, which was highly regrettable. The Government had also ratified the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women. It had not, however, signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), even when women, as everyone knew, were the main victims of crimes against humanity. The Constitution was

currently being amended, and the Government would therefore soon be able to sign the Rome Statute

With regard to legislation, tangible progress had been made, particularly with the civil marriage law that had recently introduced the right to divorce and guaranteed equal rights to all children. On 8 March 2005 the Chilean parliament had at last adopted a law punishing acts of violence perpetrated against women.

Nevertheless, 70 per cent of women in Chile under 25 did not receive wages for their work. And even when they had a paid job, they earned 30 per cent less than men for the same work, and up to 70 per cent less for work in senior positions. While women worked half of overall working time worldwide, only one third of that time was remunerated. According to the most objective estimates, total unpaid work amounted to US\$ 11 billion each year. And that was not all: women's employment rates were lower than men's, and in Chile, more than half of women said they had been victims of domestic, physical or psychological violence. The number of women murdered by their spouses was rising steadily. It was therefore clear that the serious issue of domestic violence against women was far from being resolved. No matter how good the laws were, they were not always respected.

She was pleased to note that for the first time in Chilean history, two women were running for president. She hoped that one of them would become the first woman president in the history of her country.

Mr E MENEM (Argentina) thanked the Philippine people for their kindness, and recalled that women had been victims of discrimination since time immemorial. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century John Stuart Mill had already objected strongly to the subjection of women, which he compared to slavery, and had urged that they be given the right to vote. In the twentieth century, the principle of equal rights for men and women had been laid down in the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and new rules had been drawn up based on those founding texts. Those rules were contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

However, much remained to be done before such provisions could become reality everywhere. More often than not, discussions of equality referred to equal political rights. Indeed, that was important, but it was only part of a greater whole. Efforts should also be made

to ensure equal civil rights, punish acts of violence perpetrated against women, guarantee them independent medical and social care and take into account unpaid work they performed in their homes.

The Government of Argentina had changed its laws to improve equality between men and women, a principle embodied in the Constitution. A framework law provided that at least 30 per cent of all candidates standing for legislative elections should be women. The results spoke for themselves: 33 per cent of senators and 33.7 per cent of deputies were now women. Lawmakers had also reformed the family law to establish shared parental custody, and in general to enhance the position of women by integrating the notion of equal pay for equal work in Argentine family law. Significant progress had been made, but not enough to change attitudes and behaviour. Yet equality between men and women was a pillar of democracy. He was so convinced of that that he proposed to transfer to UNICEF the royalties from a book he had just written on the topic, a book which had Eva Peron, a symbol of equal rights for men and women, on the cover.

Mr J RIERA (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR) said that UNHCR was providing protection and assistance to over 17 million refugees, internally displaced persons and other persons of concern, including stateless people, all over the world. Women and children continued to bear the brunt of war, and sexual violence was reported in many conflicts. Rape was used as a tool of warfare, and in some situations as a way of deliberately spreading HIV/AIDS to the enemy. Refugee and displaced women continued to face gender-based violence in many forms, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation in exchange for basic aid and services. Since the early 1990s, UNHCR had tried with mixed success to implement more comprehensive sexual and gender-based programmes to address violence against women and children. The most effective prevention and response strategies relied on integrated and coordinated action by multiple actors.

UNHCR had made five commitments to refugee and displaced women: to set a target of 50 per cent female participation in management and leadership committees; to register and document women as individuals; to develop further strategies and programmes to combat sexual and gender-based violence; to have women participate in aid distribution;

and to distribute sanitary supplies to women. It was expanding educational opportunities for girls and encouraging them to stay in school. It continued to encourage governments to recognise that women were able to qualify for refugee status on the basis of severe discrimination and inhumane treatment. He encouraged States to join together to recognise genital mutilation as a form of persecution.

Mr S ZABOLOTETS (Belarus) said that since the Fourth World Conference on Women had been held in 1995 in Beijing, Belarus had worked unrelentingly to raise the social status of women and secure equal rights. Parliamentarians had worked to improve national legislation and bring it into conformity with international standards. The emerging women's movement had played an important role. A national strategy had been adopted to promote gender equality in the period from 2001 to 2005. Its goal was to create conditions to ensure equal opportunities for men and women and to close the gap between legal and actual parity. The implementation of equal rights and opportunities involved first and foremost equal participation of men and women in decision-making. In the 2004 parliamentary election, 32 women had won seats, representing 29.4 per cent of those elected. Overall, the percentage of women in the National Assembly had reached 30.3 per cent. Three women were members of the Government. A woman headed the country's central commission for elections and national referendums, and four women were ambassadors. Women accounted for 46.4 per cent of the country's judges. Unemployment among women was still a problem. Of the 83,000 people unemployed in January 2005, 57,500 were women. The Government had enhanced employment and working conditions for women. The community and the State had become particularly concerned at the problem of trafficking of women and children. Measures

had been adopted to prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The parliament had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its three Protocols. The decade since the Beijing Conference had been marked by Belarus' adherence to the principles drawn up there.

Mrs T CUNILLERA MESTRES (Spain), speaking on behalf of her country's delegation, expressed her gratitude to the Philippine people for their hospitality, and noted that there was a special historic bond between them and the Spanish people. Spain ranked second among the world's countries in equal representation of men and women in government, and seventh in respect of parliament, where 126 seats were held by women. That was the result of 30 years of democracy, but full gender equality had yet to be achieved, despite intensive efforts. Steps still needed to be taken to prevent trafficking in women and girls and to punish acts of domestic violence once and for all – even if the Spanish Government was proud to have been the first to enact a law dealing with that offence. Crucial work in the promotion of women's status had been accomplished since the establishment in 1993 of a woman's institute, and Spain now had the first government in its history with equal representation of men and women. Many issues, however, were still to be resolved.

Paying respects to the victims of the tragic bomb attacks of 11 March 2004 in Madrid, the speaker said that many women striving to reconcile family and professional life had been among the victims. It was essential to enhance women's training to broaden their access to the job market. She drew attention to the plight of immigrant women, who were particularly vulnerable. The more rights women enjoyed, the more stable, prosperous and developed would be the society to which they belonged.

*The meeting rose at 1 05 p m*

## Sitting of Tuesday, 5 April (Afternoon)

The meeting was called to order at 4 45 p.m., with Mr F.M. Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, in the Chair

### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

Mrs H YAKUBU (Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS) said that she brought good news from West Africa, namely hope of a better tomorrow. The new crop of West African leaders was producing fresh results. The timely intervention of the African people, and the world at large, had produced solutions to crises in Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo and elsewhere. The courage of the Togolese people deserved particular praise: both government and opposition supporters had chosen the path of peace and democratic progress. She hoped there would soon be free and fair elections in that beautiful country.

ECOWAS was made up of 15 West African States and aimed to raise the social and economic status of their citizens. A West African Women's Association, which worked to guarantee the rights of women and secure for them a full place in decision-making, had been established in 1985. The ECOWAS Parliament had a very active committee on women's and children's rights. A total of 16 out of 108 parliamentarians in the ECOWAS Parliament were women.

That did not mean that West African women had achieved all their aspirations. They still faced discrimination, and in their homes they suffered domestic violence. The problem was exacerbated by unemployment, which led men into drugs and prevented them from playing their traditional role as head of the household. That in turn led them to abuse their women. The Assembly should emphasise the need to reduce poverty and unemployment and to fight corruption.

The United Nations should hold a special session on the practical assistance that could be provided to women to develop their skills. A few good examples included a training programme for women run in Liberia by an appeal court judge, the establishment of an educational trust fund in Ghana, and a project in Niger which helped women grow tropical fruit in the desert. Hard-working women across Africa had helped develop the economies of their countries. They simply asked for effective laws to protect them from discrimination. The women of Africa had a positive contribution to make to the continent's development.

Mr N. ANASTASIADES (Cyprus) said that the world was afflicted by numerous conflicts which exacted a heavy human toll, particularly on women and children. The most effective means of improving their lives would be to strengthen international peace and security. States should abide by the provisions of the United Nations Charter, respect state sovereignty and protect human rights. In the current climate there was a trend toward the use of force and the pursuit of narrowly-defined national interests. Human rights were widely disregarded, despite the existence of numerous international instruments. It was important to re-establish a central role for the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security. In that respect, the report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, *A more secure world Our shared responsibility*, was welcome, as it stressed the need to revitalise and reform the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The rights of all humans, especially women, were linked to the promotion of sustainable development. The momentum created by the Beijing Platform for Action needed to be maintained. The tsunami disaster demonstrated the need to strengthen international cooperation to help mitigate the effects of natural disasters.

Cyprus continued to be held back by the failure to find a lasting solution to the dispute over its territory. The Greek Cypriot community remained committed to the plan put forward by the United Nations Secretary-General. Peace in Cyprus would enhance security in the entire region.

*Mr A Majali (Jordan), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Mr G F TERENZI (San Marino) thanked the Philippine authorities on behalf of his delegation for their generous hospitality during the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Referring to the calamity that had struck the Indian Ocean, he said that the circumstances surrounding it called forth various thoughts. Because of inadequate infrastructure, it had been a tragedy not only for its immediate victims, but also for the survivors. Moreover, in view of the instant transmission of information that characterised our times, that tragedy had immediately aroused feelings of solidarity that had reinforced awareness of the unity of the world in which humankind lived. Geographic distances had been made irrelevant; they could no longer justify indifference to such events. That seemed to explain why so many States worldwide had participated in an assistance and aid operation of an unprecedented scale. They had all wished to show maximum solidarity. Even the small State of San Marino had tried not to lag behind in that effort; in addition to raising funds, it had pledged the revenue from the sale of two special postage stamp issues commemorating the tragic event.

The dramatic experience of the tsunami had provided a strong incentive to improve international cooperation in preventing natural disasters. San Marino urged all States to address sincerely and resolutely current problems related to environmental imbalance and to the need to preserve the environment for the benefit of future generations. Such a commitment, more necessary than ever before, was closely linked to efforts to promote peace in the face of crises threatening various regions of the world. In Europe itself, the issue of Kosovo, although crucial to stability not only in the immediate vicinity, but also in Europe as a whole, was still unresolved.

The Middle East was also characterised by complex crises: the dramatic "post-Saddam" situation in Iraq and the current Lebanese crisis, not to speak of the insane ideology of Islamic fundamentalism. The region was in danger of further armed conflicts. Its prosperity, peace and sustainable development depended on active cooperation with the West. In that context, common cultural roots and dialogue among the three major monotheistic religions gave rise to hope.

Peace, however, could not prevail in the Middle East unless two urgent requirements were met: a stable and sovereign Iraq, and

peaceful coexistence of the State of Israel and a Palestinian State. The evolving views expressed in the Security Council showed that a system of collective security could be achieved only through the United Nations, the sole body capable of establishing an effective climate of confidence and ensuring the resumption of negotiations with a view to implementing the road map, with the help of the European Union (EU), the Russian Federation, the United States and the United Nations. All countries had a common responsibility in that regard.

Despite its limitations, the United Nations played a unique role in ensuring peace and security and promoting sustainable development. Hopefully, the expected reform would have a revitalising effect on the United Nations, and its activities would converge with action undertaken by the IPU to promote dialogue among the peoples.

The development opportunities provided by globalisation could not conceal the predicament of millions of people afflicted by hunger, misery and illness. Accordingly, the international community must not only reject and combat terrorism, but must also improve cooperation mechanisms in order to ensure actual progress for the entire population in developing countries. Convinced that no freedom was possible for human beings living in conditions of absolute material want, the delegation of San Marino wished to contribute to the relevant activities of IPU.

Mr K LOCKE (New Zealand) said that one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was to promote gender equality and empower women, with a special focus on improving women's education. Two thirds of the world's illiterate people were women. There needed to be more aid from rich nations to honour the commitments made; in New Zealand the Government was being urged to set a timetable for reaching the target of the provision of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for official development assistance (ODA). Currently the figure was 0.24 per cent. The United States was still further behind. Paul Wolfowitz was to be head of the World Bank, which was like putting a fox in charge of the chicken coop; it spelled disaster for development and women. The United States was putting its geopolitical interests ahead of world development and the rights of women. In Saudi Arabia, women did not have the right to vote, yet the United States ignored that in order to ensure that it would have access to Saudi oil. Parliamentarians around the world

should take a stand against authoritarian regimes; those from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in particular should not allow the Burmese regime to assume the presidency of the Association. Parliamentarians had a duty to support colleagues from Burma who had suffered at the hands of the military regime. Women were worst affected there, and rape by soldiers was a mass phenomenon. He asked for support for the cause of Burmese democracy.

Mrs B MBETE (South Africa) said that while policies to address the situation of women were important, they were not an end in themselves, but only a beginning. They enabled parliamentarians and governments to spell out their intentions. African leaders were to be commended for adopting positions which favoured women, especially in the African Union (AU). Fifty per cent of AU commissioners were women. African Heads of State had decided to report annually to the AU on progress made in working towards parity. Resources were needed to turn policies into better lives for women. Rwanda, for example, had emerged from genocide to attain the leading position in the world in terms of women's participation in parliament. In the South African Government, 41.2 per cent of ministers were women, but the judiciary was difficult to transform; only one of 169 High Court judges was a woman. The forthcoming local government elections would be a challenge. International and national policies could be valid and effective only if those committed to them allocated resources for their implementation. They would be effective when parliamentarians played the necessary oversight role to ensure that their country's executive branch complied with the international conventions that the State ratified.

Mrs M GRIEFAHN (Germany) said that considerable progress had been made in Germany in strengthening women's rights and their participation in professional life. In 1949, 6.8 per cent of parliamentarians were women. In 2002, that share had grown to 33 per cent. At the last general election 23.4 million men had voted, compared to 25.5 million women. Political parties promoted the candidacies of women on the basis of fixed quotas. A specific percentage of places on each party's slate was reserved for women. Currently, there were still more men than women willing to stand for election. There were still too few women in top management positions in the private sector.

Federal and state governments were working together to ensure equal opportunities for women in teaching and research activities at universities. Increased efforts were being made to attract women to careers in science and engineering. Women were still underrepresented in the armed forces. The Government was taking steps to make family and career compatible, and it was now possible for both parents to take family leave at the same time. Companies employing more than 15 persons had to allow all employees to work part-time. Most women wanted to work, but many had no choice; they had to work, for economic reasons. Improving the availability of day-care opportunities for small children was the most important step in achieving general equality and encouraging women to return to work.

Women were frequently victims of domestic violence. A new law strengthened the position of women and children. It obliged the perpetrators of domestic violence to move out of the common place of residence. Shelters for victims were also made available. The German Government had the firm intention to continue along the path to gender equality.

Mr L F DUQUE (Colombia) expressed sympathy for and solidarity with the peoples affected by the recent tsunami.

Despite the signal efforts of the Government and people of Colombia to achieve gender equality and respect for women's rights, Colombia's women continued to face a situation of serious violence because of drug trafficking and paramilitary and guerrilla warfare. Many women had been widowed as a result, and had had to assume the role of head of household and breadwinner. The most vulnerable women were the poor, who lacked proper housing and education and could be driven into prostitution. Women were entitled to earn a dignified living. The eradication of poverty was an essential part of achieving that goal. Rich countries had a role to play in achieving the MDGs and helping poorer countries to tackle poverty.

Mr X PHOMVIHANE (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that three months after the tsunami, the suffering continued to affect the world community. The Government and people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic had expressed their profound condolences to the countries ravaged by the disaster, and had sent relief supplies.

The successful conclusion of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians showed that the Meeting acted as an engine for securing women's political, social and economic rights. There was a long struggle ahead to achieve the ultimate goal of guaranteeing gender parity. The Lao Government attached great importance to gender issues. It had established national committees on the mother and child and on women's rights. Equal rights for women were guaranteed in law. The Government worked in partnership with regional and international women's organisations to promote the status and interests of women.

The number of women members of the National Assembly had increased from four in the first legislature in 1975 to 25 in the present legislature, or 23 per cent of the total membership. A women's caucus had been established within the Assembly and further legislation for the protection of women's rights had been enacted in the previous session. Nonetheless, genuine freedom for women depended on the eradication of poverty, and that was the main challenge.

Mr A OPARA (Nigeria) expressed deep sympathy to all those affected by the tragic events of December 2004. The response of the international community had shown that the countries of the world could join together to tackle terrible disasters. The Nigerian Government had dispatched assistance which had included a significant contribution from the Nigerian National Assembly.

The issue of armed conflict in Africa was of particular concern. The international community should increase the level of humanitarian assistance sent to the countries affected, in particular in order to deal with the effects of refugees fleeing theatres of conflict.

The Nigerian delegation supported the reform process in the United Nations. The inclusion of more regional powers on the Security Council would increase the confidence of the international community in the United Nations, and would put the Council in a better position to tackle issues such as drug trafficking, piracy, terrorism, and the challenges facing women and children.

Ten years after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration, women all over the world still suffered from discrimination. Too often they faced a glass ceiling at work. Child labour and trafficking in women and children were on the rise. Parliaments around the world had to adopt a concerted approach. In 2004 the Nigerian National Assembly had passed the

Trafficking of Persons (Prohibition) Act, which outlawed the practice.

The greatest impediment to Africa's development was its ever-increasing foreign debt. Funds that could have gone to development projects were instead channelled to service those debts. The Nigerian Government's countless attempts to persuade Western nations to cancel the debt had made little progress. Out of frustration, the Nigerian National Assembly had recently adopted a motion authorising the President to declare a unilateral moratorium on the servicing and repayment of the country's debt.

Closely linked to the debt problem was the issue of poverty. The deep divide between rich and poor nations was getting wider and had given rise to a new phenomenon, "economic refugees". The rich industrialised nations should address the root causes of the problem by focussing their efforts on reducing the catalysts for emigration, which included hunger, illiteracy and disease.

The greatest threats facing humanity remained poverty and disease. Poverty and ignorance created a fertile breeding ground for the recruitment of terrorists. The first task should be to defeat hunger. Parliamentarians had a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that all those problems were eradicated. The international community could win the fight if it had determination and sincerity of purpose.

Baroness MILLER OF CHILTHORNE DOMER (United Kingdom) agreed with the Philippine President, Mrs Macapagal-Arroyo, who had spoken of the importance of a free press, which, alongside free and fair voting, was an essential part of the democratic process. Women had to be part of the legislative process because true democracy was parity democracy. In the United Kingdom less than 20 per cent of the members of both Houses of Parliament were women. She hoped that the general election next month would improve the situation, although no positive action had been taken apart from extra training for female candidates.

Women could play a critical role in peace and trade negotiations, in setting budgets and in the debate on debt reduction. All those issues would benefit from women's input. She agreed with Wangari Maathai, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate from Kenya, that the environment and resources were major factors of conflict. If resources were scarce, conflict would result. Good governance required women's participation as equal partners.

Mrs L ALAZA (Benin) thanked the Philippine authorities for their refined hospitality and the excellent organisation of the Assembly. Although the issue of the status of women was habitually put on the agenda of many international meetings to salve the participants' conscience, the matter was forgotten as soon as the meetings were over. Since the dawn of time, women had been considered as subordinate persons and inferior beings. With some famous exceptions, they had for thousands of years been excluded from policymaking. Their historical marginalisation was not due to the will of God, as some claimed, but to the fact that men found it advantageous to organise societies that way.

Only as late as 1975 had the United Nations organised, in Mexico City, the First World Conference on Women, during which questions were finally asked about women's predicament. Similar conferences had since been organised every 10 years. At the latest one, held in Beijing, brave decisions had been taken in critical areas. Moreover, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had paved the way for new measures and constructively influenced government action worldwide. The establishment of a monitoring mechanism, which would hopefully lead to actual progress, had been a substantial achievement.

Unfortunately, in Benin, as in other countries, much remained to be done in terms of improving the status of women, even though the country's democratisation had contributed to the ratification of international instruments aimed at protecting women and improving their situation. In 2004, Benin had adopted a person and family code aimed at reducing injustice. The parliament had also adopted an act against female genital mutilation (FGM) and provisions on sexual health. Beninese women sat in the National Assembly, participated in the Government and the constitutional bodies and held important posts in public enterprises and the private sector. Although the competence and dedication with which they carried out those jobs should have boosted the recruitment of women, that was sadly not yet the case, and the immediate prospects for achieving gender parity were dim. The struggle should continue, and needed the support of the IPU.

Lastly, the speaker recalled the words of Mr Bouteflika, President of Algeria, at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the African Parliamentary Conference: Since the law was powerless, good governance required that other mechanisms must be found to combat discrimination against

women; this, he rightly said, would require good governance.

*Mr F M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, resumed the Chair.*

Mr E URQUIDI HODGKINSON (Andean Parliament) greeted the Assembly on behalf of the five member States of the Andean Community and said that the Parliament had launched an initiative aimed at promoting a new vision of American integration, and eventually at creating a federal republic of Latin America, a kind of United States of South America. Although it might seem ambitious and utopian, the idea had already made some progress. If all Latin American countries united, they would constitute the largest nation of the world, with a surface area of 17 million square kilometres and the planet's most extensive gas, oil, mineral and fresh water reserves. The effort was therefore worthwhile, and the initiative had been favourably received. Admittedly, there was still a long way to go before the idea materialised, but – according to the ancient Chinese proverb – must not a journey of a thousand miles begin with a single step? For a start, the Andean Parliament wished to set up an inter-parliamentary union of South America, in which the member States of both the Andean Parliament and MERCOSUR would participate, to support the eventual construction of the Latin American union.

Mr M SOOMRO (Pakistan) said that the world had lost a great shepherd in Pope John Paul II. The tsunami had caused great devastation. There were also many other problems facing the world. A debate on women was appropriate, as women were more likely to be the victims of such problems. The United Nations was to be commended for the work it had done so far, but there was more to do. A change of mindset was needed, and the provision of gender-sensitive education, both formal and informal, was very important. Parliamentarians should lead the way.

Modern warfare affected women and children who made up 80 per cent of the world's refugees. Pakistan had introduced laws to increase the representation of women in legislative bodies and 20 per cent of members of its parliament were currently women. They had created opportunities for democracy, for political institutions and business. Women were contributing more, as demonstrated by the fact that one third of local government representatives in Pakistan were women. Many

positions in local, national and international government service were held by women. Funds were awarded for women who were self-employed in rural areas. Many children over 15 left school to take up domestic positions. In order to combat that trend, the Government paid parents to allow their children to attend school after 15. More awareness was needed about the issue of honour killings.

Mr M. AL-HULWAH (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the delegate of New Zealand had affirmed that some countries, including Saudi Arabia, turned a blind eye to violations against democracy and human rights. As the speaker had pointed out in the morning, however, Saudi Arabia and other countries rejected all

external monitoring and based their attitude toward the future on their own cultural heritage. Moreover, Saudi Arabia in particular had initiated reforms aimed at building the capacities of parliamentary and civil society bodies, and had taken measures to improve the status of women. The allegations of the delegate of New Zealand were therefore doubly wrong. The view that human and women's rights could be defended without taking into consideration the culture and civilisation of the peoples concerned was illusory. The IPU should contribute to dialogue and understanding among peoples and cultures. Any action that could hamper that exchange should be avoided.

*The meeting rose at 6 20 p m.*

### Sitting of Thursday, 7 April (Morning)

*The meeting was called to order at 9 20 a m., with Mr F.M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, in the Chair*

#### Item 3 of the agenda

#### **General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

#### *Resumption of the debate*

The PRESIDENT said that 6 April marked the tenth anniversary of the start of the genocide in Rwanda, and asked delegates to observe a minute of silence in memory of the victims.

Mr G HÁRS (Hungary) said that as a new member of the European Union (EU), his country aimed to strengthen relations with Asia and to participate actively in the dialogue between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the EU. Good cooperation between the two groups of countries on a variety of political and security issues was helping to stabilise the entire Asian region.

In Hungary, legislation guaranteed de jure equality for women, but much remained to be

done to achieve de facto equality, including the elimination of numerous forms of open and hidden discrimination and the adoption of measures to establish real equality. The Ministry for Equal Opportunities had been set up in 2003, although the issue of equality was now dealt with primarily by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Steps had been taken to prevent violence against women and children in Hungary, and the country was contributing to the fight against human trafficking, in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Parliaments could play an important role in setting up a system of early warning and fast reaction to natural disasters, a matter that required urgent discussion. The Hungarian Government had suggested using the existing Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) system to provide early warnings of earthquakes.

Hungarian assistance to the victims of the tsunami disaster had been unique in its strength and volume. People had felt they had to act, because they were the inhabitants of a single global village.

Mr. J JEROVŠEK (Slovenia) said the common goal of the Assembly's discussions was to provide for human security and to uphold the principles of human dignity on a global level. The IPU Assembly provided a unique opportunity to confirm the active role of parliaments in that process.

The Government of Slovenia had devoted particular attention to the promotion of equal opportunities, particularly since independence. The parliament had passed an Equal Opportunities Act in 2002 and the Government had established an Office for Equal Opportunities to ensure implementation. Women were well represented in many areas of social life, including education, justice and health care, but were less involved in politics.

Turning to the situation in Kosovo, he said that greater involvement by the international community was required to ensure long-term stability, and a permanent solution had to be found to the province's status. There would be long-term consequences for the entire region if the situation deteriorated again. The Government of Slovenia was willing to play an active part, as its Minister for Foreign Affairs was currently the Chairman-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Globalisation brought the world's problems closer to everyone, and heightened the mutual responsibility of the world's peoples for finding solutions. Numerous challenges remained, such as reducing poverty and guaranteeing social and legal security. Effective action by parliaments would strengthen people's belief in democracy.

Ms G PATURALSKA (Poland) thanked all delegations for their condolences at the passing of Pope John Paul II. The Pope had dedicated his life to other people and had inspired others to stand up for freedom and human dignity.

In 2004, Poland had become a full member of the EU. The tsunami disaster in South-East Asia had been a shock to everyone, and Poland had provided help to the regions and people that had been affected. It supported the Philippine proposal to create disaster prevention mechanisms within the United Nations. Poland was reassessing its relations with non-European States and was redefining its place in the world's political system. It had adopted a strategy for its relations with non-European developing States the year before.

Polish legislation guaranteed women the same rights as men, and equality of rights was also guaranteed by the Constitution. EU equality directives applying to the labour market, employment and social security had been transposed into legislation, but women's rights were still not universally identified as human rights. In the communist period it had been impossible to discuss violence against

women and sexual harassment, even though such problems existed. In democratic Poland the question of women's rights centred on anti-abortion law. The understanding and enforcement of women's rights had become a politically sensitive issue. There was still insufficient understanding and acceptance of the idea of parity democracy among the political class, and there was a need to eliminate stereotypical attitudes regarding gender. Women in Poland were improving their position in Polish public life.

Mr J M KATUPHA (Mozambique) expressed sorrow at the death of John Paul II. The Pope's visit to Mozambique had encouraged conflict resolution and had helped lead to the peace agreements. He saluted the women attending the Assembly, as it was National Women's Day in Mozambique. The Mozambican parliament had conducted a review of the mechanisms required to give women the role they deserved in society and had also considered the struggles against poverty, HIV/AIDS and other epidemics. In Mozambique, 34 per cent of members of parliament were women, as were 11 of the 23 government ministers and the Prime Minister. The parliament was engaged in developing and consolidating peace. It had drawn up a new Constitution and revised electoral legislation to eliminate the pitfalls which had been identified under difficult electoral circumstances. He was proud of the peaceful transitions of power which had occurred in Mozambique. The Mozambican poverty reduction plan had been internationally recognised. Many countries were affected by natural disasters, and the only solution was for States to come together to establish early warning mechanisms that could prevent disasters and the losses they caused.

Mrs M DEFENSOR SANTIAGO (Philippines) said that women's role in the world was being re-evaluated. The Jewish and Christian religions were considering whether women should lead prayers. Oxfam had expressed concern about the plight of women in the world, and had reported on the disadvantages women faced in disaster areas, including problems of domestic violence. The Philippines had ratified both the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, but the United States had not. Ratification by the United States was an essential part of the work required to improve the lives of women in

countries that discriminated against them, such as Saudi Arabia. The Fourth World Conference on Women had highlighted the needs of women. A decade later, obstacles still existed. The gap between women and men within the poverty cycle was now being termed the "feminisation of poverty". Women earned less than half the income of men and were denied access to both credit and land ownership. Women increasingly experienced violence, were underrepresented in political life and suffered from discrimination in marriage and in its dissolution. Globalisation had exacerbated poverty in general and for women in particular.

Women remained underrepresented at most levels of government. In 2004 the proportion of seats held by women in legislative bodies stood at 15.4 per cent, the highest world average to date. However, only 14 countries had achieved the target of 30 per cent.

In the Philippines, the Plan for Gender Responsive Development and the Framework Plan for Women provided a template for programmes among executive agencies and local government units. Official statistics showed that women had been marginalised in the economic and political spheres and were victims of gender stereotyping, domestic violence and poverty. Legislative measures to promote the economic empowerment of women had been few and far between. Laws intended to make local industries, especially agriculture and fisheries, more competitive had had negative effects on the economic situation of women. Philippine domestic laws on women had yet to be aligned with standards of non-discrimination and equality as stated in the Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Philippines had yet to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which inter alia prohibited sexual slavery. Such measures were necessary, and should be supplemented by public information campaigns and effective monitoring mechanisms.

Mr M SIRCAR (Bangladesh) said that the Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was the landmark document for improving the situation of the world's women. It was an international bill of rights for women. It had promoted basic education for millions of girls, supported measures against sexual slavery and domestic violence, improved health care services for women, and enhanced the rights of women to own or inherit property. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

against Women had been supplemented by the 1995 Beijing Declaration.

In Bangladesh, a national plan of action had been adopted to integrate women's development into mainstream development efforts through a multisectoral approach. The Government of Bangladesh had initiated other far-reaching measures for the empowerment of women. Parents were encouraged to send girls to schools, and it was hoped that more women would enrol in secondary and higher education. The Constitution of Bangladesh guaranteed equal rights for women. The Government had introduced a quota system in the civil service, with 10 per cent of senior posts and 15 per cent of junior posts reserved for women. There were women judges, and women in the police and armed forces. An amendment to the Constitution ensured that 45 seats in the National Parliament were reserved exclusively for women, and women could contest any of the other seats.

The National Policy for the Advancement of Women sought to establish equality and security for women, to reduce poverty and eliminate discrimination, and to project positive images of women.

Mr B KEITA (Mali), speaking on behalf of Mr Ibrahim Boubakar Keita, Speaker of the National Assembly of Mali, unable to attend because of official business, congratulated Mr Drilon on his election to the presidency of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly and thanked the Philippine authorities for their warm hospitality.

Malian women lived in particularly precarious circumstances, mostly below the poverty line. The Malian authorities had addressed that situation by drawing up and implementing a national strategy. But the improvement of the condition of the vast majority of the Malian people, who lived in rural areas and worked in the primary sector, depended not only on national policies, but also on the relevant international conventions and agreements which alone could ensure equity for them.

In September 1985 Mali had ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. States that had not yet done so should ratify the Convention and its Optional Protocol. The Malian authorities had drawn up a series of plans of action in areas that had high priority for women: the campaign against illiteracy; enhancement of women's participation in improving reproductive health and in combating sexually transmitted infections and

HIV/AIDS; dissemination of information on legal and civil issues; social protection; the fight against poverty; and the promotion of women's role in environmental protection and subregional integration

Further specific activities had included the establishment of a national programme to eliminate excision; the adoption of a new criminal code containing offence definitions aimed at protecting women and of a trade code that no longer required married women to obtain their husband's authorisation in order to exercise a commercial activity; and various forms of affirmative action in favour of women

Despite the importance of gender issues, one could not fail to refer to the tragic consequences of the tsunami that had struck the Indian Ocean in December 2004. The delegation of Mali paid its last respects to the many victims and hailed the initiative of the IPU Secretary-General to urge IPU Members to manifest their sense of solidarity. Mali had done so

Moreover, the international situation – particularly in Africa – was basically characterised by distressing crises with devastating effects on the population. Such crises were occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan's Darfur region and Côte d'Ivoire. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, affecting mainly women, had already orphaned 12 million children. Desertification was another phenomenon that gave serious cause for concern. Every day, malaria claimed the lives of 3,000 children under five. In short, Africa was plagued by a number of disasters, and the international community could not remain indifferent to its predicament

The speaker noted that the ninth session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the European Union (ACP-EU) was scheduled to take place from 18 to 21 April 2005. Lastly, he congratulated his female colleagues on the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians

Mr R PEZ FERRO (Cuba), referring to the forms of hardship that the world was currently experiencing, such as poverty, hunger, illness, illiteracy, armed conflict, violence and discrimination, not to mention the enormous burden of the external debt, environmental degradation and the effects of neoliberal structural programmes and globalisation, said that those depressing

phenomena struck women head on. They were the main victims of poverty. Worldwide, they accounted for 70 per cent of the poor, two thirds of the 876 million illiterate people and more than half of the 40 million persons suffering from HIV/AIDS, 95 per cent of whom lived in the Third World. Of the 500,000 women who died during pregnancy every year, 99 per cent succumbed in developing countries

Contrary to some allegations, the poor countries were not responsible for that dramatic situation. They had neither conquered nor plundered a single continent. They had not introduced the slavery, colonialism and imperialism whose victims they had been for so long. In fact, the countries of the South aspired to the creation of a climate of international cooperation conducive to eradicating an underdevelopment brought about by inappropriate plans and programmes. Women would benefit from such cooperation

For 45 years, Cuba had been engaged in a process of economic, political and social transformation which showed that a different life was possible, that justice and equality could actually be implemented and that the status of women could be raised. In Cuba, women accounted for 45 per cent of the civilian public workforce, 66.2 per cent of technicians and intermediate- and higher-level professionals, 72 per cent of the teaching profession and 44.6 per cent of research scientists; the rate of mortality among pregnant women was 34 per 100,000 live births; women's rate of participation in management functions was 35.4 per cent and in the National Assembly 36 per cent, one of the highest rates of women parliamentarians in the world

In the face of the economic war waged against Cuba by the neocolonialist Government of the United States and an embargo that amounted to a 45-year long genocide and constituted a flagrant large-scale violation of human rights, whose victims were mainly women, older persons and children, the Cuban people and their Government, driven by political resolve, had spared no effort to ensure that social progress would benefit the population as a whole

Concluding, the speaker called attention to the predicament of a group of Cuban women: the mothers, wives and daughters of five Cubans, whose sole offence had been their heroic contribution to the combat against terrorism, and who were currently imprisoned in the United States. Those women were refused visas to enter the United States and

exercise their right to visit their family members in captivity

The IPU had consistently worked in defence of the rights of women, and had actively participated in the world conferences held on that issue, such as the Beijing + 10 Conference held in New York. Hopefully, the current debate would make a useful contribution to that legitimate struggle.

Ms G GAUTIER (France) said that she was honoured to address the Assembly on the agenda item before it, and that it was not possible to debate the impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women without underlining a paradox. A certain disillusionment with the traditional political model could be observed, particularly in Europe, to the extent that voter abstention kept increasing. Was that a symptom of a malaise specific to the old democracies? At any rate, paying greater attention to the status of women could only revitalise the relationship between electorate and politicians. On the other hand, the electorate consistently turned to the elected officials as soon as a difficulty or problem arose. France's local politicians, many of whom – about one third – were women, were solicited constantly, and the same phenomenon could be observed at the international level. Therefore, feminising the political process could be a way to revitalise the relationship between electorate and politicians and should be taken into account in considering the tangible impact of policy decisions on the situation of women. In countries dominated by a patriarchal approach to power, the impact of domestic and international policies on women had all too often been neglected, while increased participation of women in politics might have made a difference in the world and averted considerable bloodshed and suffering.

A distinction should be drawn between on the one hand specific policies aimed at restoring balance between men and women at all levels – such was in fact the mission of the Delegation for the rights of women and equal opportunities for men and women, which she had the honour to preside in France – and on the other hand domestic and international policies that necessarily had an impact, possibly favourable, on women. In Europe, considerable progress had been achieved through policies of the first type, and as a result many issues that had formerly been taboo, such as those related to violence, were currently addressed in public. In fact, talking about the most sensitive problems was very useful. The victims needed

above all for people to refer to their plight; generally silence increased their suffering. Parliament could play an important role in that regard, since encouraging discussion was its primary mission.

Policies consisting in proclaiming theoretical principles of equality were not enough. As a result of organised efforts by women, the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe enshrined the principle of gender equality, but much remained to be done in order to eliminate even the most glaring inequalities. In France, for instance, since the proclamation of the principle of "equal pay for equal work" in the 1990s, the wage gap between men and women had widened by 25 per cent. It was nevertheless encouraging that, at the behest of the State's highest authorities, the implementation of the principle had recently been given renewed impetus.

A similar evaluation of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action was called for in view of the fact that 2005 was the tenth anniversary of its adoption. The time had come to assess the fulfilment of the commitments expressed therein and the discrepancies between words and deeds.

Focusing, however, on the impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women, she pointed out that the policies in question were largely drawn up and carried out by men. The underlying problem was women's insufficient access to the political bodies that actually made the relevant decisions. Between 2000 and 2005, the proportion of women parliamentarians in the world had increased from 13.4 to 15.7 per cent and in 44 countries the proportion of women ministers had crossed the threshold of 20 per cent. Sweden, with 52.4 per cent of women ministers, set an example. It was followed by Spain, which – with 50 per cent – belied the biased view that in southern European countries gender parity was hard to attain. On the other hand, women were still confined to social portfolios and often kept away from such centres of power as foreign relations, public finance and defence. Moreover, the proportion of women heads of State or government was falling; it had decreased from 4.7 per cent in 2000 to 4.2 per cent in 2005. Attaining gender balance in decision-making at the highest level of political authority was therefore a challenge still far from being adequately met, even though facing it successfully was essential to the survival of the world's democracies. All too often, men took decisions that met only the requirements of organisations where men were

overrepresented. In France, nevertheless, the Delegation for the rights of women and equal opportunities for men and women had designated a man as rapporteur on the sensitive bill concerning spousal violence. Women were grateful to all persons of either sex who contributed to developing a political model more conducive to gender equity and to the emergence of a more just and humane society.

*Mr C S Atwal (India), Vice-President of the Assembly, took the Chair*

Ms R KADAGA (Uganda) noted that there had been limited success in improving the position of women. Treaties had been ratified but not implemented, as implementation had financial implications for a country's budget. A real commitment would involve retraining and reorientation efforts. A choice had to be made as to which laws should be enacted first; usually the State preferred to deal with economic laws rather than human rights issues. In developing countries, budgets were often designed and supervised by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Those organisations had put pressure on developing countries to reduce public spending. As a result developing countries were not able to enforce and monitor women's rights. Uganda had had to battle with the IMF and the World Bank over funds made available to deal with the HIV/AIDS problem. It would destabilise the country's macroeconomic equilibrium if it drew on those funds and yet HIV/AIDS drugs were needed. Institutions which supervised economies should be pro-people rather than pro-profit.

The camps for internally displaced people in northern Uganda housed 1.6 million people who had fled a brutal insurgency, among them women who had suffered appalling acts. It was particularly worrisome that peacekeepers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo were sexually abusing women. Sometimes they demanded sexual favours of children in exchange for bread which had been provided by charities from around the world. Such peacekeepers should be tried and punished for their crimes. Women and young children had suffered, and they needed justice.

Mr P BALOPI (Botswana) said that since independence in 1966 Botswana had adhered to a liberal Constitution which recognised fundamental rights and freedoms for all citizens and the principles of the rule of law. The

number of women in decision-making positions had increased steadily, be it in political office, public and private sector management or traditionally male domains such as chieftainships and the priesthood. The constitutional framework had resulted in major policy and legislative reforms to ensure that no citizen of Botswana was at a disadvantage because of gender. Women who were citizens of Botswana and who were married to foreigners could pass their citizenship on to their children. The Deeds Registry Amendment Act had changed the property rights of women, in particular married women. Employment law had changed to allow women to work in mines. Severe penalties had been introduced for sexual offenders.

The Government had eliminated gender disparity in education. For example it now allowed girls who dropped out of school because they were pregnant to return after their babies were born. A number of policy and administrative measures had been put in place to enhance the role and welfare of women. The State had subscribed to global instruments aimed at improving the situation of women. The HIV/AIDS pandemic remained a threat to the emancipation of women, as the burden of the disease fell mainly on them.

Mr S PËLLUMBI (Albania) said that the international conferences of the 1990s had confirmed the consensus for improving the role of women. Parliamentarians were able to globalise the issue and place it at the heart of policy changes. Women were still underrepresented in decision-making positions, they earned less, and suffered at the hands of men.

Albania had made remarkable progress in achieving gender equality. Women enjoyed the same rights as men under the Labour Code, including the right to equal pay. In 2004 the Albanian People's Assembly had adopted a law aimed at achieving full equality between men and women in domestic and social life. The Albanian Government had adopted the National Platform on Women to implement the Beijing Declaration. The Government endorsed the 1994 Cairo Declaration on Population and Development that put women at the centre of strategies for health care, and was working to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Women's participation was essential to the development of a flourishing civil society. More needed to be done to increase women's representation in decision-making. He hoped it would be possible to meet the target of

achieving participation rates for women of between 25 and 30 per cent in parliament and in government

Mr T NISTAD (Nordic Council) said that the Nordic Council involved parliamentary cooperation between five countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. At its last meeting, the Council had put forward proposals to its members for achieving the MDGs. The Nordic countries were relatively wealthy, and it was not a hardship for them to give a few hundred million dollars in development aid. They were much less willing, however, to open their markets to goods from poor and developing countries, a step that had to be taken if those countries were to rebuild their economies. Development money should not be diverted into the pockets of government ministers, officials and their families in the recipient countries, or into unnecessary administration. Poor countries needed to put their houses in order by improving their governance, along the lines agreed at the 2002 United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. The MDGs were linked to market access and the reduction of debt, which were two sides of the same coin. The Norwegian Government had written off the debts of a number of African countries, and he encouraged it to take similar action in respect of other countries.

Mr O MBEO (East African Legislative Assembly – EALA) said that the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly was the first to be attended by the EALA, which had been admitted as an Associate Member to the IPU by the Governing Council in September 2004. The EALA was grateful for that decision, and proud to be associated with the IPU, an organisation well known for its defence of parliamentary democracy.

The EALA had been established in 2001 by the three partner States of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as one of the organs of the East African Community. Its elected members were broadly representative of political opinion and gender in the region. The EALA was the legislative arm of the East African Community, with powers to enact laws that were binding on its members. It was hoped that the Community would soon receive new members, in particular Rwanda and Burundi.

Women played a key role in the economic and social development of the member States. Thirty per cent of parliamentary seats were reserved for them by law. Other laws had been enacted to promote the interests of women,

who had become more active in demanding greater inclusion in mainstream activities. He noted with pleasure that Wangari Maathai of Kenya had recently become the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. The EALA was committed to implementing the Beijing Declaration in its entirety. The more women who were empowered, the more likely it was that the children of the future would be guaranteed better living conditions. He looked forward to welcoming the delegates to the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Nairobi in 2006.

Mr E B SEKYE HUGHES (Ghana) said that the skewed balance of power between men and women formed one of the biggest obstacles to sustainable development. High female mortality rates and poor education required affirmative action. The Government of Ghana was focusing on girls' education, reproductive health issues, efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, the provision of social protection and debt relief, and was seeking to increase women's participation in the economy. Because women had low education levels, only about 9 per cent of employees in higher positions were women. A newly-created Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs had produced a comprehensive policy document in collaboration with other ministries and advocacy groups. The budget had to be allocated carefully to avoid exacerbating gender inequality. The Government had made credit facilities available to women to provide them with a livelihood. It saw human resource development as one of the key objectives of the MDGs, and placed special emphasis on female education, good governance and private sector development. Gender sensitivity had to permeate policies worldwide to ensure that women could contribute to sustainable development.

Mr H CARVAJAL DONOSO (Bolivia) said that his country had introduced legislation to protect rights and ensure equality of opportunity. Twenty-one per cent of the national budget was allocated to education, and everyone was entitled to free primary education.

Poverty was a major problem, but some progress had been made in reducing inequality. The percentage of the population that was illiterate had decreased from 20 to 13 per cent over 10 years.

The country was experiencing a difficult political and economic period which had weakened state institutions. Certain NGOs had

had a negative impact, and had sometimes exacerbated tension and conflict. The IPU Assembly should debate measures to regulate the activities of NGOs.

In 1997 the Bolivian Government had introduced a requirement that at least one third of political posts be held by women. It had also increased the involvement of indigenous groups in the political process, while respecting their rights and cultural background. Improved democracy would help Bolivia achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Bolivia was landlocked, but it had not given up its right of access to the Pacific coast. He hoped that improved Latin American cooperation would resolve the issue.

Mr W FASSLABEND (Austria) said that his country had made major strides in improving gender equality in recent decades. Thirty per cent of parliamentary deputies were women, an increase of 10 percentage points in 10 years. Four decades after the first female minister had joined the Government, around half of all ministers were currently female, including those who held key portfolios such as foreign and internal affairs. Challenges remained, however, particularly in the workplace. Women earned 40 per cent less than men overall. They received equal pay for the same jobs, but were often restricted to only a small number of professions, such as teaching.

Improving gender equality would bring benefits for all, both in the developing and developed worlds, and would enhance the economic benefits for all countries.

Mrs L CARNEIRO (Brazil) said that sexist and racial discrimination formed the common basis of all forms of social inequality in Brazil. Unemployment was 7.8 per cent among men, versus 12.3 per cent among women. The feminisation of poverty, pointed out by the International Labour Organization (ILO), was therefore not surprising. On average, women's incomes were 30 per cent lower than men's, although women had a higher level of education. In fact, income inequality between men and women increased with the education level. There were frequent attempts to justify that inequality on the grounds that female labour was more expensive as a result of the indirect costs of social protection mechanisms specific to women. An ILO study, however, had shown that the cost differential in question was mainly borne by the national community, and its incidence on employers was very low.

Brazilian women were victims of violence on two fronts: As citizens, they faced the various forms of violence afflicting society as a whole, while as women they were subjected to sexist – mainly domestic – violence, regardless of their social class, ethnic origin and level of education. Furthermore, they were plagued by international trafficking in women and girls.

Nevertheless, the national report on the implementation of the plan of action drawn up in accordance with the outcome of the Beijing Conference had shown that the impact of the relevant public policies carried out in Brazil in the past decade had been constructive. Elementary education had become practically universal and consequently the rate of illiteracy had declined, which benefited women, while infant mortality had decreased spectacularly. Unfortunately, however, attention paid to women's health was still insufficient, and maternal mortality continued to be one of the most serious problems in the country. Abortions performed under poor conditions were the fourth largest contributor to mortality among Brazilian women.

Progress had been made at the political level. Brazil had adopted legislation that, by imposing quotas for women candidates, had initially produced a positive effect. The political parties, however, had not always complied with those provisions. The need for specific measures ensuring women's increased participation in political decision-making was currently recognised. Through the adoption of a new Civil Code, most of the earlier discriminatory provisions had been eliminated, and women were enabled to exercise their rights fully. Generally speaking, under the 1988 Constitution women had been able to progress in terms of gender equality.

At the international level, Brazil was a signatory to all human rights instruments drawn up in recent decades, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Brazilian authorities pursued an overall policy aimed at raising the status of women, in keeping with the MDGs.

Mr A LAKSONO (Indonesia) said that the current global political, economic and social situation was fragile. For example, the Middle East was riddled with conflicts that had caused numerous civilian deaths, in particular of women and children. The Assembly must not halt its efforts to take common action towards peace. The continued limited market access of developing country exports to the developed

world and the failure to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for official development assistance (ODA) were major constraints for the developing countries. The Indonesian Government welcomed the progress made after the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, and endorsed the findings of the United Nations Millennium Project. Innovative financing mechanisms such as enhanced public-private partnership and debt swaps should be further developed.

The world had recently experienced an unprecedented global emergency, the humanitarian response to which had been equally unprecedented. His country was grateful for the compassion, solidarity and cooperation it had received. He called on the United Nations and other institutions, particularly donor countries and the international financial institutions, to honour their pledges to provide funding and assistance in support of rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in countries affected by the tsunami. Women and children were of paramount concern. In Indonesia, efforts to eliminate discrimination against women had begun at independence and the appropriate provisions had been incorporated into the Constitution. Gender mainstreaming was pursued through the national strategic plan.

Mr M WHBEE (Israel) hoped that the world would not forget its generous promises of assistance for the casualties of the tsunami. Developments in the Middle East clearly had an impact on the situation of women in that region, as women had suffered great hardship as a result of the absence of peace. The Middle East might be on the threshold of a new era where peace and justice would replace despotism and war. There was a growing demand for democracy and freedom. The Syrian Government was apparently set to pull its forces out of Lebanon, and for the first time since the beginning of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, Israel was preparing to dismantle Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and Samaria. The internal difficulties facing the Israeli Government in implementing that policy should not be underrated, and it was therefore justified in demanding that the newly elected Palestinian leadership should act with equal determination to disarm all the militias that did not accept its authority. The Israeli Government was grateful to all forces in the Middle East and elsewhere that were committed to helping the region enter a new era of democracy and

peace, but it needed assistance against those forces such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and States like the Islamic Republic of Iran, that were determined to prevent change.

Parliaments had an important role to play in the transition from conflict to conflict resolution. A change in the rhetoric of parliamentarians would pave the way for a change in people's hearts and minds. He was pleased to use his mother tongue, Arabic, to invite delegates from neighbouring countries to visit the Knesset in Jerusalem and to convey a message of peace to the Israeli people.

*Mr F M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, took the Chair.*

Mr A MALDONADO AGUIRRE (Guatemala) said that the Guatemalan Constitution was founded on the basic principles of humankind, which had two key components: freedom and equality. Commitment to the principle of equality in relation to women should be absolute and enduring. Equality should be seen not only as a concept, but in terms of social reality. Inequality affected not only women, but also children, the elderly, the handicapped and indigenous people. Such discrimination against vulnerable groups was rejected by all political parties in Guatemala.

The Guatemalan Congress had recently adopted legislation which guaranteed equal rights to all men and women. Amendments to the Civil Code had ensured full legal protection for women. Offences against women such as domestic violence, sexual harassment and racial abuse had been made illegal. There were statutory safeguards for women in employment. The role of women in the armed forces and the police had been enhanced. It was important that the judicial system should protect the most vulnerable people. Recent tax reforms would increase social justice, and thus benefit women. Gender equality should be inculcated throughout the education system.

The protection of women required an international framework. The IPU was an appropriate forum for democratic consensus and coordination to promote policies leading to greater equality.

Mr P MARINI BODHO (Democratic Republic of Congo) thanked the Senate of the Philippines for the invitation and the people of the Philippines for their generous hospitality.

Domestic policies that tended to relegate women to the background had apparently run

out of steam. Sustainable development required women's full participation in the process. Accordingly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo pursued appropriate policies for the promotion of literacy and school enrolment among women, aimed at closing any remaining gaps. To that end, women's associations were supported by the Ministry of the Family and Women's Affairs, while the Government did everything to encourage the emancipation of Congolese women. Moreover, both the Transitional Constitution and the post-transition Constitution currently being drawn up provided for a significant representation of women in national, provincial and local institutions. Nevertheless, women were still flagrantly underrepresented in the Senate and the National Assembly. That imbalance would be corrected by the new Constitution, which contained provisions that established the principle of equal representation.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo had ratified a number of international instruments intended to improve the status of women, and in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The wars that had plunged the Democratic Republic of Congo into mourning and continued in the eastern part of the country had taken a heavy toll among Congolese women. As it was generally known, they had been raped, used as a weapon of war and contaminated by HIV. It was high time that equality between men and women prevailed. Tribute should be paid to the unflagging efforts of the IPU to ensure equality.

Referring to the country's ongoing process of political transition, currently in its last phase, which involved preparing the new Constitution and organising free and democratic elections, he requested the IPU's active support in strengthening the role of the Congolese parliament as an agent of peace in the Great Lakes Region and in Central Africa. Credible democratic elections would lead to stable institutions in which Congolese women must play an essential role.

Mr P BARUSASIYEKO (Burundi) thanked the Government and people of the Philippines for their generous and brotherly hospitality. He paid tribute to Burundi's neighbours, South Africa, the international community, the international parliamentary associations and Burundians themselves for their unflagging joint efforts to help the country overcome the harrowing crisis into which

recurrent waves of violence had repeatedly plunged it since it had achieved independence in 1962. The 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi (Arusha Agreement) had been a source of renewed optimism. After the elimination of elected political leaders on 21 October 1993, it had been necessary to put the peace process back on track by reorganising the surviving parliamentarians, ratifying conventions and peace agreements and holding presidential elections as required. The task had been arduous, for within three years putschists had attempted five times to stifle the restoration of democracy. They had finally been persuaded to sign the Arusha Agreement, specifically characterised by provisions stipulating permanent negotiations among the various ethnic groups and political parties. The agreement required a two-thirds majority for the enactment of any law; set a limit of 60 per cent for the representation of any ethnic group in the country's decision-making bodies, even if such a group constituted a greater proportion of the population; and stipulated equal ethnic representation in the Senate. It was easy to imagine the colossal energy that had gone into ensuring that the institutions functioned well. Despite some failures, there had been tangible progress: The post-transition Constitution had been adopted by referendum in February 2004; the electoral code and the communal law had overcome the hurdle of the National Assembly vote and were currently being considered by the Senate; security was gradually being restored nationwide, as the last rebel group had accepted to negotiate; and elections – that all hoped would terminate armed conflict in Burundi – were scheduled to take place in May and June.

The end of war would benefit all Burundians, and particularly women, who had been the main victims of violence. Burundi had ratified a number of international instruments aimed at eliminating discrimination against women, and the new Constitution contained provisions conducive to progress in terms of gender equality. The fact that Burundian women would in future be able to transmit their nationality to their children as truly represented a cultural revolution.

Thanks to the work of the parliament, democracy was on track again. Hopefully, never again would it be derailed. To that end, full compliance with the Arusha Agreement was necessary. However, although none of the parties to the conflict had voiced any reservations on that subject, some wavering

was perceptible within the United Nations, even though it was a guarantor for the implementation of the Agreement Formulas that might ensure the impunity of some criminals, thereby definitively compromising national reconciliation, should be totally excluded. The formulas to be used in Burundi must already have been tried successfully elsewhere; no risky experimentation should be undertaken.

The speaker concluded by thanking again all those who had contributed to restoring peace in Burundi.

Mrs L SALABULA (Fiji) extended her country's condolences to Christian colleagues on the passing of Pope John Paul II. She also expressed Fiji's sympathies for those affected by the tsunami disaster.

Fiji had contributed to the various international discussions on gender equality and had participated in the Beijing Platform for Action. The Government had devised a national plan of action for the 10-year period beginning in 1998, which formed the basis for Fiji's efforts to achieve the MDGs. The Department of Women had been raised to the status of a full ministry, and the budget allocation for gender issues had increased 200 per cent in 2005. A Family Act had been passed in 2004, and a family law court should be in operation from mid-2005. Efforts to combat domestic violence dated back to 1996, and in 2002 government ministries had started implementing a gender-sensitisation auditing programme. The Government was promoting equal opportunities in education, and more women were entering male-dominated professions such as engineering. Women were well represented in the judicial system and in the trade unions. The Government recognised the important contribution women could make to the economy, and was promoting lifeskills training and small business opportunities. Small savings-and-loan schemes were increasingly popular. The budget for poverty eradication programmes had increased by 45 per cent. Workshops were being held with a view to increasing the number of female candidates for the municipal and general elections in 2005 and 2006.

Mr K MUTUKWA (Secretary General of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum) asked what role parliamentarians could play in changing the position of women. The goals of the SADC Parliamentary Forum's 12 original members

were peace, general equality and the rule of law. Their five-year strategic plan of 2000 was focused on democracy and supporting peaceful elections in the region. So far, they had monitored 13 elections, a process in which over 600 members of parliament and staff had participated. Gender equality was an important issue and part of the Parliamentary Forum's Engendering Parliaments programme. Nearly one third of the Parliamentary Forum's representatives were women. The SADC Parliamentary Forum believed that democracy was not just for men, and that it would be improved by the involvement of women.

Mr M EKERT (Czech Republic) cited the examples of Emmeline Pankhurst, the British suffrage campaigner, and of Mahatma Gandhi. The United Kingdom was perhaps the cradle of parliamentarianism, but it had only allowed universal suffrage after Mrs Pankhurst had founded an association to further women's rights. Mrs Pankhurst and her colleagues had been imprisoned, and the cradle of democracy had taken some time to give women the right to vote. Czech women had been allowed to vote before their British counterparts. Much had changed since then. Women held important positions throughout the world. Sixty years earlier, the Second World War had ended. Before the war, politics had been based on pure power, without regard for life. Since then, politics had been based on emancipation and equality. The Second World War had decided the future of Europe. The Czech Republic was participating in the integration of Europe, which needed a common foreign and security policy to succeed in a globalised world.

Mrs M XAVIER (Uruguay) said that she wished to rectify information on the place of women in Uruguayan society and politics. Although the international community's ambitious objectives were far from being attained, in Uruguay a woman presided over the Chamber of Representatives, 12 per cent of whose members were women. Three key ministerial posts, traditionally occupied by men, and other prestigious posts were filled by women. These achievements, however, did not suffice. On 8 March 2005, the Government had launched a national equal opportunities programme that would include various cross-cutting policies on gender issues, ranging from questions of health to combating the scourge of domestic violence. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had requested the various agencies of MERCOSUR to examine gender-related issues.

and evaluate the impact that the various measures taken had on women. The aim was to ensure gender equality in all areas (employment, social protection, health, small and medium-sized enterprises and housing), particularly with regard to poor women raising handicapped children.

Domestic efforts to reduce poverty and promote gender equality concerned all of the ministries: the Ministry of Tourism and Sport (2005 had been proclaimed the International Year of Sport and Physical Education), the Ministry of Industry (access to credit should not be discriminatory), the Ministry of the Interior (there should be equality before the law) and the Ministries of Agriculture, Transport and Culture (a non-sexist culture should be disseminated). A Women's Caucus comprising women deputies and senators of all political parties had been formed to monitor policy implementation.

The year 2005, 30 years after the First World Conference on Women had been held in Mexico City, and one decade since the Beijing Conference and the adoption of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem Do Para), would be decisive. Much remained to be done. Any discrimination against women violated human rights. The Beijing goals deserved the same degree of priority as the MDGs. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol had represented a crucial breakthrough, but all stakeholders – parliaments, political parties, governments, administrative authorities, international organisations and the courts – should be further mobilised. The target should be to eradicate poverty and eliminate violence, whose immediate victims were women and children. Economic growth was a necessary but insufficient condition for the reduction of

poverty and inequality. Society had a political duty to close the gap between men and women.

Mr C KAKAZU (Japan) wished to exercise his right of reply to remarks made in the Third Standing Committee by the delegate from the Republic of Korea. The delegate had referred to Takashimi, which was an integral part of the sovereign territory of Japan. In 1954 Japan had proposed to the Republic of Korea that the dispute over Takashimi be resolved by the International Court of Justice, but the Republic of Korea had declined that offer. He did not believe it was appropriate for such bilateral issues to be discussed in a forum such as the Assembly. Japan and the Republic of Korea had good bilateral ties, and the purpose of the Assembly was to discuss issues which would enable parliamentarians to work towards achieving common goals.

Mr I NADIMI (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the statement of the representative from Israel was biased, particularly in its references to peace and to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had accused Iran of pursuing an "inhuman and savage" policy, forgetting the suffering inflicted on the heroic Palestinian people and all those, Christians and Muslims, who were mistreated by the Zionist regime. Genuine peace was incompatible with aggression, with the policy of destroying houses, hospitals and mosques and with a continuing illegal occupation. The Israeli Government violated all United Nations resolutions and assassinated Palestinian civilians and leaders.

He stressed that all Muslims wanted peace and that Islam supported peace and the rule of law. Peace and justice were incompatible with occupation and destruction.

*The meeting rose at 1 05 p m*

**Sitting of Thursday, 7 April**  
(Afternoon)

*The meeting was called to order at 2 45 p m , with Mr. F.M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, in the Chair*

Item 3 of the agenda

**General debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world with the overall theme of *The impact of domestic and international policies on the situation of women***

*Resumption of the debate*

The PRESIDENT said the meeting would be allocated to second speakers from delegations

Lord JOPLING (United Kingdom) drew attention to the major problems that often arose when women were not included in policy-making. He cited the work of a small charity in the United Kingdom called Hope and Homes for Children, which was tackling the problems of street children and orphans. Without assistance, those children had the potential to become criminals and prostitutes, and to be liabilities rather than assets for their countries. The charity was working in 14 countries, including Romania, the Sudan and Sierra Leone, and had helped reintegrate around 10,000 children into family structures.

Mrs M GJERSKOV (Denmark) said that easy access to commodities from around the world allowed rich people to buy flowers, food and even young women from poor countries. Human trafficking was a new form of slavery run by well-funded multinational criminal networks that had no regard for human life and dignity. As the source of demand for such trafficking, the rich countries shared the responsibility to address the problem with poorer countries. From Denmark's perspective, one of the main aspects of combating trafficking was to reform the legal framework, ensuring that perpetrators would be prosecuted and that effective international cooperation was put in place. The enormous human rights abuse that trafficking represented had to be stopped.

Mr S J HOSSEINI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that women had a visible impact in all areas of life. By investing in women, the international community would achieve its goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Women had proved that they were able to play constructive roles in development activities in many different fields. It was to be regretted that the international community had not taken effective measures to prevent the massacre of women and children in Palestine and Iraq. Human rights abuses had undermined the confidence of the international community. It was a painful fact that some military powers continued to threaten civilisations, technology, logic and rationality by applying double standards.

Mrs H ARIMURA (Japan) noted that each country had a unique culture, history, set of customs and social structure based on its own values. Each country viewed its people, history, land and sovereignty as being different from those of other countries. The term "gender-equal society" could mean different things in different countries. The search for gender equality should not be conducted at the expense of respect for other cultures and origins. Society should be like a piece of fabric with horizontal and vertical threads intertwined. The horizontal threads were global society, and the vertical threads were the inter-generational sequence of time from grandparents, to parents, to children and grandchildren. It was only by weaving the threads together that a gender-equal society could be produced. She would continue to work for such a society in order to improve the future for the benefit of her one-year-old daughter.

Mrs G N ERBATUR (Turkey) said that Turkey had taken critical steps to improve women's rights, including preventing violence against women. Further action was needed, however. In particular, children should be educated about domestic violence and the rights of all. For a nation to be strong, it must have full employment and it must be productive. Women needed to be active in the decision-making process. She supported measures to encourage women's participation in politics through affirmative action measures,

and called for a review of all educational material to ensure that gender discrimination was removed. Life in Turkey would be better for women if they were able to participate more in decision-making processes.

Mr KIM KYONG HO (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) rejected the Japanese delegate's assertion of Japan's claim to the Tok Islets, which were sacred territory belonging to Korea.

Mr R COETZEE (South Africa) said that the situation of women was best in those countries which had a culture of protecting the individual rights of every person. All policies must have the objective of extending individual rights and liberties, ensuring equality before the law, providing for personal security and increasing prosperity. All persons must have the right to be themselves, to pursue their own aspirations and also to have the political, economic and social power to make those ends possible. One underlying factor in the pandemic of HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa was the fact that many women did not have the physical or social power to control what happened to their bodies. The empowerment of women in the fight against HIV/AIDS was part of the same struggle. He regretted that there had been no mention in the Assembly of the situation in Zimbabwe, where the people had been defrauded of a free and fair election. Opposition parliamentarians had been victimised, tortured and imprisoned, including Roy Bennett, who was still in prison. He called for a discussion to be held on the situation in Zimbabwe at the 113<sup>th</sup> Assembly, to be convened in Geneva.

Mrs I LUNDBERG (Sweden) identified with the losses caused by the tsunami. Peoples around the world, including Swedes, had been affected; that was globalisation. The world had a common responsibility to help the people affected.

The imprisoned politician Aung San Suu Kyi, who would be 60 years old in June, and other women had suffered because of the situation in Burma. There should be an appropriate response from the IPU, including an appeal for the release of all political prisoners in that country.

Prostitution could be defined as men's sexualised violence against and oppression of

women. In Sweden, prostitution was not a criminal act, but it was a criminal act to buy or attempt to buy sexual services. Women throughout the world needed the support that such criminalisation could bring. Prostitution was sexual exploitation of women and children. The IPU had rejected forced prostitution, but not prostitution itself. In her opinion, prostitution was by definition forced. She called for the IPU to do better.

Mrs J TURNER (New Zealand) said that women in New Zealand enjoyed significant levels of participation in both the economy and the democratic process. It was a source of pride that New Zealand had been the first country in the world to give women the vote. Women had subsequently enjoyed increased opportunities and levels of participation in society. The Government had implemented paid parental leave for women following the birth of a child and provided subsidised childcare to encourage women to return to work. Those women who chose to stay at home with their children were increasingly marginalised and undervalued. Domestic violence against women was a challenge to New Zealand society, which needed to move beyond providing shelter and legal exit points if women were to enjoy safety in significant relationships. It could be asked why society was raising generations of citizens without the appropriate lifeskills to manage and negotiate a way through life without violence.

Alcohol consumption and violence against vulnerable members of society were clearly linked. It did women a great disservice to separate their needs and their progress from the relational contexts in which they led their lives. In New Zealand, a families commission that had been set up to conduct research into the impact of government policy on families had issued recommendations on how best to create an environment in which families could thrive. The best way of tackling family poverty was to address issues of social capital in families. If that was not done, citizens would continue to sabotage the best intentions of their governments.

THE PRESIDENT declared that the debate was concluded and the meeting was ended. The Assembly would meet at 4 p.m. the following day to hear reports from committees and to consider draft resolutions.

*The meeting rose at 3 15 p.m.*

**The role of parliaments in the establishment and functioning  
of mechanisms to provide for the judgment and sentencing  
of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism,  
with a view to avoiding impunity**

*First Standing Committee – Peace and International Security*

**Sitting of Monday, 4 April**  
(Morning)

*The President of the Committee, Mr E Menem (Argentina), opened the meeting at 9 15 a m*

**Adoption of the agenda**

The PRESIDENT introduced the draft agenda that had been distributed to the Committee members (C-I/112/C) on 17 January 2005, and noting that no proposals of amendments had been made, took it that the draft agenda had been adopted

*It was so decided*

**Approval of the summary records  
of the session held in Geneva  
on 29 and 30 September 2004**

The PRESIDENT said that the Summary Records of the Committee's session held in Geneva on 29 and 30 September 2004 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all Members of the Union as part of the overall summary records of proceedings of the 111<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. In the absence of remarks or questions concerning the distributed text, he would declare the Summary Records approved

*It was so decided*

**Presentation of the report and draft  
resolution of the co-Rapporteurs**  
(C-I/112/R-rev, C-I/112/DR-rev,  
C-I/112/DR-am)

The 111<sup>th</sup> Assembly had appointed two co-Rapporteurs on the subject under discussion, Ms M Bouhired (Algeria) and Mr J Argüello (Argentina). The PRESIDENT regretted that, due to unforeseen circumstances, Ms Bouhired had been unable to attend the current session of the Assembly, and took the opportunity to express the Committee's appreciation for her work as co-Rapporteur

He also welcomed Mr E Kourula, a judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and said that he looked forward to the contribution of his expertise to the deliberations

The co-Rapporteurs had prepared an initial report, which had been distributed to IPU Members early in January 2005, redistributed in revised form on 11 February 2005, and posted on the IPU web site. He stressed that the content of the report was the responsibility of the co-Rapporteurs alone and, as previously, was intended to stimulate debate and provide the background for the Committee's work

A preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion had also been prepared in early January, and its revised version had been published simultaneously with the revised report in February, taking into account the comments and observations submitted by members by that date. The possibility for members to submit amendments to the revised draft resolution had remained open until the statutory deadline of 28 March 2005

Twenty members had submitted amendments within the official deadline, namely: Algeria, Belgium, Canada, China, Cuba, Egypt, Gabon, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The texts of their original submissions were available for consultation with the IPU Secretariat, and a compilation of the proposed amendments had been issued in document C-I/112/Dr-am, dated 29 March 2005. Although amendments were no longer admissible, sub-amendments could still be presented, in writing, to the Secretariat

In order to ensure that the debate was as interactive as possible, he stressed that the reading of prepared speeches was strongly discouraged. He encouraged the members of the Committee to participate actively in the discussion and to freely comment on the statements made by the various speakers

Mr J ARGÜELLO (Argentina), *co-Rapporteur*, introducing the report of the *co-Rapporteurs* and the draft resolution, said that at the 111<sup>th</sup> Assembly the Argentine delegation had drawn from its national experience in proposing the current topic of discussion. In 2005 Argentina was commemorating a period in which the nation had been ravaged by crimes against humanity and other atrocities. He informed members that the parliament of Argentina had organised a high-level international seminar, to be held on 25 and 26 April, as a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and to explore the means by which war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism could be eradicated. He assured the participants in the IPU Assembly that his parliament would welcome and appreciate their attendance at the seminar.

Recalling that Argentina had suffered huge losses from terrorist attacks, he said his nation was firm in its determination to put an end to such despicable acts. That bitter experience had encouraged Argentina to consolidate links between parliaments to prosecute those crimes and to avoid impunity, in a move towards the universal desire for harmony and respect for human dignity and the rejection of acts that posed a threat to those ideals.

In formulating the basic guidelines for the draft report and resolution for the consideration and approval of delegates, the *co-Rapporteurs* had taken full account of the substantive additions and amendments suggested by a number of Members and international organisations that had indicated their interest. Mention should also be made of the outstanding support of the IPU Secretariat, whose dedication and efforts meaningfully contributed to the achievement of the objectives set by the *co-Rapporteurs*.

Turning to the draft report, he said that similarities between the constitutional systems of the various countries had been taken into account, and the need for an effective system to eradicate atrocities in a coordinated manner was clear. Indeed, practically all constitutions had established the requirement for legislation, with formal parliamentary approval, in order for the executive branch to indicate its readiness to be bound by a treaty.

Consequently, the primary responsibility of parliaments in addressing the most serious violations of international humanitarian law (genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes) must lay in securing legislative approval for the international agreements and

conventions that penalised those acts, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 17 July 1998.

In that regard, he recalled that under the States parties to the Rome Statute had an obligation to invoke the principle of *aut dedere, aut iudicare* in the punishment of crimes. It was therefore the duty of States parties to take the necessary steps to adopt internal legislation to fully implement the relevant international agreements and conventions and to adapt their laws to adequately define and penalise crimes, in an effort to avoid impunity.

From that perspective, parliamentarians played a highly relevant role and the effectiveness with which they could carry out their work depended largely on the full implementation of commitments derived from international agreements. To that end, parliamentarians should also set up reciprocal coordinating mechanisms to fight against crime.

International legal provisions on terrorism differed somewhat from laws relating to other crimes and gave rise to obligations derived from general international law. Those obligations stemmed from the 12 international treaties on terrorism, and had been reinforced through various regional arrangements such as the 2002 Inter-American Convention against Terrorism.

Similarly, United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) established additional obligations to fight acts of international terrorism. It also urged States to ratify the 12 agreements, thereby assuming additional obligations in the fight against terrorism. Parliamentarians must therefore act decisively in support of the Security Council resolution.

International agreements should be implemented through domestic legislation, particularly as regards the definition of punishable offences, penalties to be applied and the requirements for procedural norms to ensure the application of the *aut dedere, aut iudicare* principle.

With respect to the draft resolution, the international community had been spurred into action by its outrage that, even today, several regions and their people were still being brutally subjected to war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism.

No cause justified such crimes, and their continued commission must be curbed through parliamentary action taken in compliance with commitments based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights treaties, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the

Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war and their Additional Protocols, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and other instruments safeguarding respect for human dignity and the implementation of human rights norms established under customary international law

The importance of the ICC and obligations established under the Rome Statute were also stressed. At the same time, there was much concern over the lack of dynamism in the implementation of mechanisms needed to support legal provisions adopted by the United Nations and other organisations in the fight against such crimes. Parliaments held primary responsibility in that regard and played a key role in the prevention and punishment of crimes.

A multilateral and coordinated approach between parliaments, characterised by joint action and shared experiences, could prove an effective means through which to enforce sanctions on those abhorrent crimes. It was essential for parliaments to establish a definition of those crimes and their corresponding penalties in order to prevent impunity. Such effort could be vastly strengthened through parliamentary support to the ICC.

He took the opportunity to urge States that had not yet done so to sign the Rome Statute and to adopt legislation on the implementation of its provisions at the domestic level.

He noted the timely adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) on 31 March 2005, referring the situation in Darfur to the Prosecutor of the ICC.

He underscored that in embarking on the present discussion, the Committee had undertaken an initiative that would enable parliaments to take a leading role in the suppression of heinous crimes. Consequently, progress could be made towards a peaceful and balanced world that was open to dialogue, and the achievement of the goals cherished by the peoples represented by Members, for the good of all humanity.

Mr E KOURULA (International Criminal Court – ICC) said that he was encouraged by the Committee's discussions, which centred on the ICC, but he stressed that parliaments and parliamentarians had an equally important role in the establishment of mechanisms to fight impunity.

The ICC had emerged as a mechanism for the prosecution of the most serious crimes and

was regarded as a major achievement in the fight against impunity. The Court had been credited with already having had a positive impact by sending a signal to potential violators that impunity would not be tolerated; the ICC had also encouraged the enactment of national laws against the gravest international crimes.

However, the ICC could only succeed with international support, which meant universal ratification of the Rome Statute and accession thereto. Although the current membership of almost 100 States parties had been achieved within a short time frame, it would be enough only when the entire international community accepted the Court's legitimacy and actively supported its work.

States must also ensure that they adopted adequate implementing legislation and develop national legislation allowing them to cooperate fully with the ICC.

In keeping with the principle of complementarity, States should ensure that national legislation allowed them to effectively prosecute crimes within the jurisdiction of the ICC. The vision of the Court was that States themselves would exercise their own judgement over the crimes set out in the Statute.

International support also meant that the Court's personnel should be able to function effectively in the field. Therefore, more than the 22 States that had done so to date should ratify or accede to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court.

He said the referral of crimes that were not being tried nationally to the ICC by States parties themselves and, as in the case of the Darfur conflict, the referral of situations by the United Nations Security Council to the ICC were trigger mechanisms for the exercise of the jurisdiction of the Court. He expressed the hope that the Security Council would use its referral powers.

Universal ratification and acceptance of the Court and proper and effective cooperation would mean that impunity for crimes of the magnitude envisaged by the Statute would truly be a thing of the past. Thorough investigation and prosecution of crimes by States, the functioning of the ICC, including recognition of its work and cooperation on the part of all States, would deter the further commission of crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Notwithstanding the establishment of the Nuremberg and Tokyo tribunals at the end of the Second World War, more than half a century had passed before the ICC had become

a reality. The international community could not allow it to fail.

The PRESIDENT, referring to United Nations Security Council resolution 1593 (2005), as mentioned by both speakers, said a decision had been made that since the Security Council resolution had been adopted on 31 March, three days after the deadline for the submission of amendments to the draft resolution of the First Standing Committee, the Standing Committee would exceptionally be afforded the opportunity to include reference to the content of the Security Council resolution in its draft resolution, where appropriate.

Before opening the debate, the President proposed that given the length of the draft resolution and the number of amendments under consideration, the Committee should appoint a special drafting committee, as stipulated under the Rules of the Standing Committee. He invited each geopolitical group to submit their proposals for candidates from their respective regions, and reminded members that the number of appointees should not exceed 11. He also suggested that Messrs Argüello and Kourula should be invited to join in the deliberations of the drafting committee as advisers.

*It was so decided.*

### Debate

Mr N KLEANTHOUS (Cyprus) said that the topic under discussion lay at the very core of efforts to build a more peaceful and just world, where perpetrators of grave crimes would not be allowed to escape unpunished.

The creation of the ICC represented the latest attempt and perhaps the most ambitious endeavour to punish perpetrators of crimes of extreme gravity. However, there should be no illusion that the mere existence of the ICC, the Geneva Conventions and other instruments would suffice for those goals to be achieved. All States, including the most powerful, should accede to the Statute and cooperate with the Court. The effective operation of the Court also presupposed a climate conducive to the delivery of justice. States should avoid double standards in their relations with other States and, moreover, delinquent States should be made fully aware that they could not flout their international commitments, including the pertinent United Nations resolutions, and would be held liable for their crimes.

He lamented the continued acts of aggression committed by States, such as invasion and foreign occupation, the forcible expulsion of inhabitants from occupied areas, the establishment of settlements, and the destruction of cultural heritage sites in the territory under the control of occupying powers. In the case of Cyprus, he said the European Court of Human Rights had found Turkey guilty of grave violations, yet Turkey had persisted in carrying out unacceptable policies under the pretence that it was not a party to the problem.

Respect for international law, and compliance with the Charter and resolutions of the United Nations on the part of all States and the punishment of crimes were absolutely crucial to deterring individuals from engaging in the serious crimes under consideration.

Mr Z AZMY (Egypt) said that various aspects of international criminal law applied to the topic under discussion by the Committee. It was therefore incumbent upon parliaments to ensure that their governments enacted domestic legislation that conformed to international law and forged a definition of crimes against humanity.

He acknowledged that the domestic legislation of some States did not recognise international jurisdiction with respect to crimes against humanity, and that there was a crisis in the relationship between political forces and the international community. Individual human rights could not be addressed on one hand while the rights of peoples were denied on the other. He counted the Middle East and Africa among the regions most ravaged by wars and conflict.

He shared the belief in the rule of law, and the hope that wisdom would prevail over the use of force. Law was the conscience of nations, and parliaments must serve as a bridge between domestic and international law by passing legislation in accordance with the provisions of international law, in general, and international humanitarian law, in particular.

The representatives from Egypt fully supported the draft resolution and hoped that their amendments would be incorporated into the final version.

Mrs M KANEVA (Bulgaria) said that Bulgarian legislation included basic instruments under domestic law for trying persons, and that its Criminal Code characterised war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism as punishable offences. The scope of

the Code established the categories of persons whose acts fell within Bulgarian jurisdiction. She also explained how the Code worked in tandem with the rules of extradition in preventing impunity, and the effect of a new extradition law introduced, in line with European Union standards, for crimes falling outside Bulgarian jurisdiction.

With regard to terrorism, Bulgaria was a party to all relevant United Nations conventions and most conventions against terrorism adopted by the Council of Europe. The Bulgarian Government had also been an ardent supporter of the Rome Statute. She was therefore pleased to inform the Committee that the National Assembly had ratified the Statute on 15 March 2002.

Furthermore, in its aspiration to European Union (EU) membership, Bulgaria had acceded to the fundamental documents of the EU expressing support for the creation of the ICC and its effective operation, and to the EU common position on the ICC, adopted on 16 June 2003.

The effectiveness of the ICC depended on the fulfillment of obligations under the Rome Statute by States parties, and also on the extent of cooperation received from third countries. Parliaments should spare no effort in involving such countries in the cause of the ICC.

Mr K INOUE (Japan) said that armed conflicts in various regions that were rooted in economic and social disparities, or ethnic, religious or ideological differences, remained a threat to the security of all humankind. Impunity was an injustice to the entire international community and led to the corruption of societies and nations. Persons responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism and who had escaped domestic trial should be subject to international courts. Recourse to such action would promote the establishment of order, build a foundation for social and economic development and discourage the repetition of similar crimes.

It was on that basis that the Japanese Government had engaged in the strengthening of the rule of law throughout the world. For example, it provided expertise to multinational legal instances, such as the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The establishment of such courts was not enough; it was also necessary to strengthen national judicial mechanisms for the implementation of international law. The courts

could not function adequately without cooperation and judicial assistance in the areas of extradition and investigation.

It was vital to increase support for capacity-building in countries lacking the necessary technical resources to comply with the treaties by which they were bound. The Japanese delegation had proposed an amendment of the draft resolution to that effect, and hoped that the need for technical support and cooperation would be clearly stated.

In addition, the international community should adopt a proactive approach by developing a legal framework aimed at preventing crimes and by eliminating the causes of wars and human rights abuses. Poverty, low governing capacity on the part of the authorities, deep-rooted ethnic or religious differences and the dysfunction of parliamentary democracy were among the main causes of conflicts around the world.

Above all, the achievement of peace and security required the ratification and implementation of existing treaties and agreements, for which the involvement of elected officials was crucial. However, the solidarity of the international community in eliminating the root causes of conflicts and terrorism assumed even greater importance. It was the duty of parliaments to ensure a genuine entrenchment of parliamentary democracy, so that every citizen could have a sense of ownership in the resolution of problems. Such efforts would foster confidence-building and dialogue between parliaments.

Mr T QUBA'A (Palestine) said that the Palestinian people had for decades been struggling to end the occupation of their territory, the blockades, massacres and impoverishment of their people, and had pursued their legitimate goals, which included the right of return and the establishment of a Palestinian State, with Jerusalem as its capital, alongside an Israeli State.

Israel had persisted in flouting international treaties, United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions and had continued its occupation, thus denying the Palestinian people the right to a normal life. The construction of the barrier through Palestinian territory, despite international pressure to dismantle it, and the continued settlement of Palestinian lands were examples of the flagrant acts of defiance on the part of the Israeli Government. It was meaningless for Israel to arrange a formal withdrawal from one

city in order to enhance its image while it insisted on establishing settlements elsewhere

Lasting peace in the region required the full withdrawal of Israeli troops to the 4 June 1967 borders, implementation of the major United Nations resolutions, respect for the Madrid Principles and the principle of land for peace. It would require ensuring that the Middle East was free of weapons of mass destruction, and for pressure to be exerted on Israel to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Ms K RISTOVA (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that her country's experience had underscored the importance for the major international players to strengthen understanding and cooperation in matters of international law

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had ratified the Rome Statute in 2002, followed a year later by the ratification of a bilateral agreement granting the United States exemption from the application of certain articles of the Rome Statute. Her Government's wish to foster friendly relations with the United States and its aspiration to EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) membership had created a delicate situation, especially since the EU did not support the United States interpretation of article 98 of the Rome Statute

In the aftermath of the 2001 conflict, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia enacted an amnesty law for paramilitary forces that had formed a political party and had subsequently become a major political player in the Government. Although in practice the law did not grant amnesty for violations of international humanitarian law, it had been difficult to prosecute suspected violators. She therefore strongly supported IPU and United Nations discussions on the ways and means of balancing the needs for peace and justice after internal conflicts. One possible solution would be the development of an interpretation giving the ICC responsibility for cases arising from internal conflicts, on the premise that national courts were "unable" to exercise their primary jurisdiction under the Statute, since it would be difficult to believe that national courts would be viewed as impartial

She said that it was lamentable that persons who violated international humanitarian law could avoid justice simply because certain issues of jurisdiction and legal and political realities were not adequately addressed. Five cases of alleged violations of

international humanitarian law arising from the conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been identified by the Hague Tribunal, and the State had given its full cooperation. On the other hand, the previous paramilitary leaders had not. In effect, the former interior minister had been indicted before the court at the Hague, and the other four cases had been returned to the national courts. There was consequently a public perception that the international court was not impartial, and that it had developed a doctrine of pursuing the leaders of States, but not the members of paramilitary groups

There was a risk that such situations would make it impossible to achieve justice, might retard the healing of the wounds of war and could undermine peace efforts. The representatives from The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia attending the Assembly supported the proposed draft resolution since in their opinion it raised all the important issues emerging from the experience of their country

Mr M HARB (Canada), taking note of United Nations Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) on the situation in the Darfur region, urged the Government of Sudan to cooperate fully in the process to put the trigger mechanism to the test, and called on Member Parliaments to continue in their role as good corporate citizens on the international scene

Citing article 98, paragraph 2, of the Rome Statute concerning a request for surrender, he pointed out that a number of countries, including Canada, had submitted amendments that referred specifically to article 98 because they had wished to underscore the crucial issue raised by the representative from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The American Service-Members' Protection Act of 2002 prevented the United States military from assisting States parties to the Rome Statute unless those countries signed a bilateral pact with the United States pledging that they would not seek prosecution of United States citizens before the ICC. He said the United States position had set a dangerous precedent for democracies around the world, and he called on the Assembly to communicate to the United States authorities that its stance had raised great consternation among the international community

Turning to the role of parliaments, he said that parliaments should not only ratify and implement commitments undertaken by their States, but also, in the case of the ICC, they should ensure that the domestic component for

dealing with implementation was comprehensive and transparent, and was in line with the Rome Statute. While acknowledging the diversity of the Assembly's membership, he urged his colleagues from Member Parliaments to play their part in reminding their governments of the importance of implementing the Rome Statute.

Mrs HS SUH (Republic of Korea) said that despite the efforts of nations to promote peace and justice, many countries were still plagued by violent and heinous crimes against humanity, and in many cases, the perpetrators of such crimes went unpunished or even remained in positions of power. The ICC had established the principle that perpetrators, regardless of their wealth or influence, should be brought to justice on behalf of the international community. However, because it had only recently been established and had not yet consolidated its power and authority, the Court had not yet reached a sufficient level of prominence to act as a strong deterrent against such grave crimes. She therefore called on all parliaments to take the necessary steps to ratify and implement the Rome Statute in their respective nations.

Since the 1990s, the Republic of Korea had freed itself from authoritarian rule and had made great strides towards democracy. In 2002, the country's National Assembly had ratified the Rome Statute, and it was currently in the process of deliberating legislative action for its implementation. Moreover, in an effort to raise public awareness on human rights, the National Assembly planned to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the authority to examine all cases of human rights violations that had occurred since the founding of the nation.

She commended the work of the co-Rapporteurs in preparing the draft resolution. Notwithstanding the final outcome of the drafting process, her delegation was of the firm conviction that in order to prevent war crimes and avoid impunity, efforts should be made to ensure that the wrongdoings of the past were recognised as such. The correct and accurate historical perception of events was an essential element in preventing the recurrence of the crimes under consideration. The teaching of history, based on fact and high moral principles, should be an integral component. In that context, she expressed her delegation's regret, disappointment and indignation at recent developments in the Japanese history textbook screening process. Some books

included content that rationalised and glorified the war crimes and other atrocities committed by the Japanese imperialists during the occupation of neighbouring countries, including hers, by distorting facts or failing to mention them altogether.

In the absence of accurate historical documentation, young people could not shape a positive outlook, and historical tragedies could possibly be repeated. The Republic of Korea was deeply concerned that the distortion of history would adversely affect efforts to fight and prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and to avoid impunity. She strongly urged the Japanese Diet to take the appropriate measures to rectify the omissions and distortions of historical data in the textbooks.

Mr SN MOUSAVI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the role of parliaments in peacemaking was particularly decisive and constructive because they were the sole authorised organs capable of taking decisions on matters of legislation. Clearly, a strong and independent international court was vital to reinforcing the concept of justice worldwide and the credibility of the international community. Since the end of the Second World War, over 250 conflicts had transpired. Those debacles had claimed over 130 million victims and were steeped in gross violations of international humanitarian law. Regrettably, most perpetrators had escaped punishment and the international community had all too often reacted with indifference and inaction.

For example, had the crimes committed by Iraq against the Islamic Republic of Iran during the 1980s not been ignored by the international community, Saddam Hussein might have been dissuaded from attacking Kuwait at a later stage. The climate of impunity that followed the commission of inhuman acts and heinous crimes, including the use of chemical weapons, by the Iraqi military had only encouraged other atrocities leading to further aggression, genocide, and war crimes.

The establishment of the ICC symbolised and embodied certain fundamental values and expectations shared by all peoples of the world, and represented the culmination of a series of international efforts to replace the culture of impunity with one of accountability.

Parliaments should be wary of adopting amnesty laws that granted exemptions to persons responsible for the commission of the most serious crimes. As a signatory of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the Islamic

Republic of Iran had also played a constructive role in the work of the preparatory committee to establish the ICC and in the elaboration of the Rome Statute. While stressing its support for the ICC, the Iranian delegation wished to call on the international community to ensure the integrity of the Rome Statute and to avoid any action that might affect the long-term effectiveness of the Court. Along with other members of the United Nations, the Islamic Republic of Iran had welcomed the decision of the Security Council to oppose the automatic renewal of Security Council resolution 1486 (2003).

The Iranian delegation strongly believed that the effective handling of perpetrators of crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide and the deterrence of such crimes in future would depend on the extent to which perpetrators were held accountable for their heinous crimes. He expressed the hope that the rule of law would prevail over the law of rulers.

Mr A MPASSA (Angola) said that his delegation supported the draft resolution and shared the view that the achievement of the desired objectives hinged on securing parliamentary approval for relevant national, regional and international legislation. The promotion of justice, peace and reconciliation lay at the foundation of that principle. Therefore, the international community must ensure that perpetrators of crimes were brought to justice. Such action often necessitated the reform of public institutions, including the court system. In that vein, he was pleased to state that Angola had already enacted several laws aimed at preventing impunity, and had taken steps to reform its judiciary.

Since issues of national and international peace and security were at stake, parliaments should act as the guarantors of democracy, establishing a legal framework that facilitated the efforts of the international community to eradicate war crimes and other serious violations of international humanitarian law. Legislation should provide punitive mechanisms, the rule of law should be bolstered by improved court and legal systems, and public awareness should be raised. Furthermore, parliaments must ensure the ratification of legal instruments that contributed to the fight against war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism. Parliamentary oversight was another important function. At the international level, the United Nations system should be granted firm support

in the implementation of its conventions and agreements.

Mr H GUSTAFSSON (Sweden), referring to the draft resolution under consideration, said that his delegation fully supported the reference to the necessary legal measures to prosecute those responsible for war crimes and related acts.

Although preventable, the crimes referred to in the draft resolution had been repeated throughout history. Experts and politicians had often engaged in lively debate on whether or not genocide was occurring, and the discussion of a clear definition of crimes had overshadowed the discussion of measures to be adopted in preventing such crimes. The prevention of crimes must be accorded greater priority than the definition of the nature of such crimes. He referred to the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which established that the threat of genocide was sufficient to spur the international community into action, even in the absence of clear evidence.

Outlining a series of steps to prevent war crimes, he suggested the creation of an early warning system whose signals were to be taken seriously by politicians around the world. It should also be an obligation for the United Nations to repeatedly highlight issues and problematic situations in order to encourage the involvement of the international community.

Lastly, he emphasised the need for parliamentarians to assert their political will and to exercise their responsibility to intervene in a protective capacity. In that regard, he referred to the Canadian non-paper entitled *The Responsibility to Protect*, and said that it was heartening that the ideas presented in that publication had been incorporated in report of the United Nations High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change. As an agent for change, the United Nations must be granted the capacity to define, inspect, warn and insist on protection. It was only through the United Nations that the issue of intervention would win comprehensive legitimacy. The role of the United Nations should also include the establishment of confidence-building measures between conflicting parties before and after crises.

The delegation of Sweden hoped that the above-mentioned issues would be given due consideration within the IPU.

Mr M SALIM (India) said that the enforcement of international humanitarian law and international human rights law posed a major challenge to the pursuit of justice against war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism

Although his delegation was in broad agreement with the draft resolution and report, he proposed the following amendments to the report. The Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was as significant as the other regional conventions mentioned in paragraph 6 of the report, and should therefore be included among them. In addition, the last sentence of paragraph 7 did not conform to the provisions of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, and should therefore be deleted. Paragraph 7 gave the misleading impression that States that were not parties to the treaty could be bound by its rules.

The fight against terrorism had both regional and international dimensions. He therefore proposed that the phrase "and regional" should be inserted after the word "international" in the penultimate line of paragraph 10.

The amendments submitted by the Indian delegation and published in document C-1/112/DR-am should be taken on board.

Mr R PODGOREAN (Romania) mentioned that Romania had acceded to the 12 international instruments relating to terrorism, and had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism in 2004. The Government of Romania was making an important contribution to terrorism-related initiatives during its current term of membership of the United Nations Security Council.

In explanation of his delegation's position on the proposed amendments, he said that paragraph 8 required further consideration; in its current wording it might be construed as extending to agreements that were in keeping with the provisions of the Rome Statute, namely article 98. He stressed that Romania aligned itself with the European Union common position No 444/2003 regarding the principles guiding the arrangements between State parties to the Rome Statute on the conditions of surrender to the Court.

The delegation of Romania also believed that the final document should integrate a gender perspective. There was need to highlight

the historic importance of including gender crimes in the sections of the Statute containing definitions. That was a major advance to pave the way for the development of effective means of addressing crimes directed at or disproportionately affecting women.

From another perspective, with respect to the role of parliaments in relation to the ICC, there was a need for parliamentary support for a wider dissemination of the values, principles and provisions of the Rome Statute and related instruments, and for an understanding of the functioning of the Court.

An ever greater participation by countries in the Rome Statute was crucial in tackling war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and would make a significant contribution to the promotion of justice and human rights everywhere.

Mr G SILVA (Portugal) said that Portugal joined the international community in condemning war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, which constituted a scourge on fundamental human rights and human dignity. The ICC had been established, among other things, to discourage the repetition of such crimes and to prevent impunity. It was particularly important that impunity should never be tolerated. He therefore joined the appeal for continued support of the ICC and for parliaments to hasten the ratification of the Rome Statute domestically.

He was pleased to inform the Committee that the parliament of Portugal had done its part by ratifying the Statute in 2002, after revising its national legislation, and had taken further steps to codify laws on the prevention of human rights violations.

Keenly aware of the global threat of terrorism, he called for increased and expanded cooperation between States for the implementation of all conventions concerning terrorism and war crimes and, in conclusion, expressed his delegation's full support for the draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs.

Mr A KAMAL (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation also condemned the actions of States that considered themselves above the law and undermined international instruments. He also pointed out that committing barbarous acts and crimes violated the principles of Islamic law, which preached tolerance and mercy and upheld noble values for the preservation of life. Reiterating Saudi Arabia's

commitment to regional and international efforts to combat terrorism, he traced the country's involvement in the international sphere since it had signed the Charter of the United Nations in 1945 and had subsequently acceded to a number of international human rights treaties. He made special mention of measures it had taken pursuant to its commitments under the United Nations Convention on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, for instance, the establishment of a standing committee to investigate allegations of torture and to prosecute persons guilty of such violations.

Mr W AL-TABTABAE (Kuwait) assured the Committee of his delegation's support for efforts to establish mechanisms against war crimes and terrorism. The Koran had established that persons responsible for the death of an individual were equally responsible for the death of all humanity. The threat of terrorism was not confined to a particular geographical region or set of people, and attempts to link terrorism to a specific religion served only to strengthen the interests of terrorists.

The fight against terrorism required an international response. Through its international mechanisms, the United Nations must play a paramount role in that regard. Furthermore, the observance of United Nations Security Council resolutions provided a solid foundation for efforts to preserve peace and stability and to protect innocent lives.

The Israeli Government had blatantly flouted all United Nations resolutions on the Middle East situation through its continued occupation, its settlements and its construction of a racist barrier, preventing the return of refugees to their lands. What was more, it had acted with the blessing of powerful States which should have held it to international commitments.

The participation of parliaments at the domestic level would strengthen international instruments, and the installation of social justice, economic reform, strengthened civil society institutions and genuine democracy were the foundations for protecting society from the scourge of terrorism.

Mrs J IRWIN (Australia) said that she was pleased to convey the Australian delegation's broad support for the draft resolution. However, the Government of Australia would not support the establishment of a fund for the

compensation of victims, but would continue to consider claims on a case by case basis, focusing on specific needs. She pointed out that all states and territories of Australia had compensation schemes for victims of crime.

Financial assistance had been awarded to the victims and families of the 2002 Bali bombings. By contrast, the United Nations compensation commission that had been established to compensate victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was faced with the prospect of seeking nearly 300 billion dollars in claims for damage. If that sum were to be repaid, it would take at least two generations for the people of Iraq to make those payments. That raised the question of whether it was fair to place the burden of compensation on the innocent by asking them to pay for the crimes of former leaders.

With regard to war crimes in general, she said that the Government of Australia had ratified the Rome Statute in 2002, and was party to the major conventions governing war crimes and genocide. It had also passed enabling legislation for the ICC and amended its criminal codes to include crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide and terrorism. A number of other steps had been taken to upgrade counter-terrorism legislation.

Parliaments reflected the broad views of a national community and thereby provided a valuable mechanism for reviewing national security measures and providing oversight of agencies charged with national security operations.

The draft resolution had rightly focused on the ICC and its role in preventing and punishing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity as the best hope for ensuring respect for human rights everywhere. It was therefore a great disappointment that not only had leading nations such as the United States refused to ratify the Rome Statute, but had also actively sought bilateral agreements with developing nations often as a condition for the granting of aid to exclude their citizens and armed forces from the remit of the ICC. A number of smaller developing countries, such as Timor-Leste in Australia's own region, had chosen to sign those agreements.

One lesson to be learned from the dark history of the previous century was that any country could be capable of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and that the world could not be divided simply into good and bad nations. However, the international community should not settle for victor's justice, which gave

powerful forces the competence to determine the concept of right and wrong

In order to prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, justice must apply to all International humanitarian law should govern the actions of every nation and individual, and the ICC must be the final tribunal for dealing with such crimes

Mr H BURGI (Switzerland) agreed with the report that it was neither desirable nor admissible for the ICC to replace national institutions and the criminal law of individual States. The concern for eradicating the crimes under discussion could only be followed up by firm action if States themselves prosecuted and sentenced suspects, extradited them to other States when so requested, or handed them over to the jurisdiction of an international criminal tribunal. An effective fight against crime presupposed that domestic criminal law would lay down adequate foundations for the prosecution of the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism. In that regard, it was important for all States to specifically codify those offences and provide punishment corresponding to their severity. It was also necessary to ensure that there were no statutory limitations for such crimes and that domestic immunity would not shelter criminals from prosecution.

At present, Swiss law provided for the prosecution of all acts of genocide and war crimes. International efforts would be in vain if individual States did not create the necessary legal foundation to prosecute offenders. The fight against terrorism was a far-reaching activity, and national parliaments should avoid hasty measures prompted by political considerations. On the contrary, parliaments should foster the establishment of transparent and balanced systems that could withstand the test of time.

It must be recognised that the fight against those crimes brought an increased risk for the violation of the fundamental rights of citizens. The action of States was acceptable only to the extent that their conduct was guided by proportionality, even when security concerns took precedence over freedom. The Swiss delegation believed that special care must be taken to preserve human rights. Security and freedom were in no way incompatible. His delegation had therefore submitted an amendment to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution, based on United Nations resolution 59/46 of 16 December 2004. The amendment aimed at ensuring that in their definition of

offences, national parliaments would adhere to the principles of public international law, in particular ensuring respect for human rights and the rights of refugees.

Under the Rome Statute, war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism were among the most serious offences affecting the international community. It would be possible to combat such crimes only if each State took action within its own sovereignty and sent a clear signal to potential perpetrators of such crimes that their acts would not go unpunished.

Mrs K J SOOKMARK (Thailand) said that action on war crimes held implications for the integrity of justice systems. That was undoubtedly a concern of the participants in the Assembly seeking to establish a formal coordination process and comprehensive plan to involve all partners in the fight against crime. Parliaments must respect international law, support the ICC and play a leading role in the prevention and punishment of war crimes and the avoidance of impunity. International partnership was crucial in complementing national commitment and actions aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights, including the full realisation of the right to development. The international community must be encouraged to assist States in their national efforts to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In that regard, she stressed that the international community must deepen dialogue in order to cultivate understanding and friendship for lasting peace, and recognise the role of parliaments in promoting dignity and human security. Human rights were universal and their violation in any State was a danger signal to all. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights was an appropriate forum for dialogue, cooperation and the sharing of national experiences and good practice. She took the opportunity to inform the Committee of Thailand's bilateral and regional arrangements, and reiterated her country's support for the relevant international protocols.

Mr J MORAGAS SANCHEZ (Spain) said that Spain had endured a number of terrorist attacks, an experience that had forged solidarity between the people of Spain and the majority of political parties. He said that in spite of its diversity, the group of parliamentarians representing Spain shared a common outlook with regard to terrorism, which included an appreciation of national institutions and

parliaments, and a recognition of the need for greater emphasis to be placed on the provision of support to the victims of attacks

He pointed out that the draft resolution had not made specific reference to victims of terrorism. That was an error that should be corrected in order to render the draft resolution more comprehensive. His delegation also believed that proposals aimed at separating terrorism from the other categories of crimes or at eliminating the concept of terrorism in the current context were unacceptable.

Various approaches could be taken in combating terrorism, but he believed first and foremost that firm action must be the political and moral focus. Second, there should be no room for yielding to political pressure or negotiating with terrorists, and lastly, ongoing care, protection and institutional support for the victims of terrorism were of the utmost importance.

Mr A HALILI (Morocco), commenting on the report of the co-Rapporteur, said that he hoped other States could benefit from Morocco's experience with terrorism and the prosecution of war criminals. The ICC, the Geneva Conventions and other international instruments were essential components in combating crimes affecting humanity as a whole. Such crimes often went unpunished, especially when instigated by persons in positions of power. Morocco had ratified international counter-terrorism conventions and had acceded to the Rome Statute because it protected the rights of peoples to live in freedom and security and prevented the exercise of any authority that violated human dignity.

The Moroccan Government had adopted new legislation and had revised earlier laws dealing with terrorism. It had also amended the Family Code and had undertaken a wide range of reforms governing accountability, banking secrecy, illicit trafficking of persons and narcotics and money-laundering activities, and had established human rights bodies dealing with reconciliation. Many aspects of those advances had been carried out through royal directives issued by His Majesty King Mohamed VI, who worked in active cooperation with the parliamentary process. The Government of Morocco wished to maintain friendly relations with the peoples of the world, and categorically rejected the linking of terrorism with religious aspirations.

Mr SHEN CHUNYAO (China) highlighted the need to create viable legal mechanisms to judge and sentence war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism. The capacity of national judicial systems should be strengthened and brought fully into play. Furthermore, an international judicial cooperation mechanism for information sharing and the extradition of suspects could provide an effective mechanism with which to cope with the grave challenges facing the international community.

His delegation had confidence in the establishment of an international legal system, and he urged countries to accede to existing treaties and to formulate new ones to improve their respective legal systems. A fair and effective international judicial organ was also an important tool in ensuring sanctions for the crimes under discussion.

National parliaments and the IPU were crucial to the functioning of relevant laws and mechanisms, and should play a role in facilitating economic and cultural development, promoting social justice and harmony, and eliminating the root causes of extremism. Full use must be made of the platform provided by the IPU for dialogue and improved cooperation in the elimination of crimes, in the maintenance of world peace and security and in the promotion of common development.

Mr C AOER (Indonesia) said that the impunity of perpetrators of serious crimes or human rights violations had been a topic of discussion at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights that had encouraged the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to examine all aspects of the issue. Appropriate and effective mechanisms should be adopted with respect to the judgement and sentencing of perpetrators and the reparation of victims of abhorrent crimes.

The ICC could supplement and complement national mechanisms to ensure effective redress for violations of international human rights, international law and humanitarian law. However, the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide should be the responsibility of the States concerned.

His delegation wished to reiterate its support for all international and national efforts to combat impunity for crimes against humanity and genocide. The Indonesian House of Representatives had played an active role in the

establishment of laws on human rights, a human rights court and a Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The delegation of Indonesia was of the view that terrorism posed a constant threat to global, regional and national security. Indonesia had suffered the effects of terrorist attacks, and its Government condemned all forms of terrorism and saw the need for enhanced international cooperation in waging an effective joint struggle. The fight against terrorism required concerted efforts in addressing its root causes on the domestic and international fronts.

As the representative body of the people, parliaments could help to prevent impunity through the implementation of mechanisms to bring criminals to justice. Parliaments should encourage States to promote respect for human rights and to implement effective measures to combat impunity.

Universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as set forth in Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations, meant that all parties should take action in giving full importance to developing effective international cooperation. By fighting impunity, the rule of law could be strengthened and thereby make a meaningful contribution to peace, security and respect for international law. The rule of law and a fair judicial system could also curb social injustice and discourage the use of force in the settlement of disputes.

Mr M CHORFI (Algeria) said that Algeria had gradually emerged from a past riddled with suffering from terrorist attacks and had embarked on a path to stability, development and national reconciliation by addressing the roots of terrorism. Political leadership, coupled with the support of the Algerian people and global sensitisation, had enabled Algeria to assume the challenge of averting terrorism, gaining valuable experience in the process.

The noble goals of democracy, stability and peace would never be realised without focus being placed on the roots of terrorism. Dialogue among civilisations was needed in order to identify the elements that united people, and to create a positive future for humanity.

The Algerian Government had initiated an amnesty that it hoped would help to heal the wounds of the Algerian people and further the move towards national reconciliation. The people were united in the desire to leave the bitterness behind them and to cast aside an era

when weapons reigned, and looked hopefully towards a better future.

Mr J GARCIA JARPA (Venezuela) said that his Government was concerned by the ongoing threats and warlike gestures of the United States Department of State towards Venezuela. It was clear from published reports and from the utterances and actions of the current Administration that the United States had military designs on the world. Military action in Afghanistan and Iraq had achieved the first goal, which was the strengthening of United States military influence through the deployment of troops and the massive expansion of the arms industry. The second goal in the countries it had invaded was related to the policies of transnational corporations, as exemplified by the rapid involvement of United States companies in oil exploration, as was the case in Iraq.

The Latin American region had had its share of smear campaigns against former leaders by the United States in the past, and charges and accusations had now been launched against Venezuela's Head of State. The United States had criticised the Government of President Chavez for refurbishing its armed forces and upgrading military equipment and materiel. In comparison to donations by the United States military to the Government of Colombia and the vast amounts spent on arms, the Venezuelan initiative was minimal. The sole concern of the Venezuelan Government was the preservation of its sovereignty.

Under the pretext of the war on terrorism, United States officials had tried to influence public opinion and had launched media attacks aimed at intervening in the internal affairs of Venezuela and destabilising a Government that was willing to stand up to neo-liberal policies, and that truly believed in anti-imperialist participatory democracy. The Venezuelan delegation proposed that the draft resolution should contain a clear statement against all hegemonic and military designs of the United States, against the development of weapons of mass destruction and in favour of the sovereignty of peoples.

Mr A R EL-FADNI (Sudan), referring to Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) on the situation in the Sudan, said that in accordance with its Constitution and as a sovereign, independent State, the Sudan did not accept the impunity of criminals. The Government had established a judiciary committee, headed by

the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to prosecute the criminals responsible for the events in Darfur. An investigative committee had also been created to investigate those events and to punish the persons responsible. A commission for the compensation of victims and a reconciliation body to bring together the various social groups were among the other steps that illustrated, over and above the constitutional and moral obligations, the Government's will to bring about progress.

The Sudan had not signed the Rome Statute. Criminals from the Sudan should be brought before an international court, but the situation was such that, for political reasons, soldiers or officials operating in the Sudan could not be judged or tried in their own countries. The Government of the Sudan believed that was a dangerous precedent which truly violated the principle of equality before the law. Moreover, it hampered African and other international efforts to enforce peace, because it sent the wrong message to rebel elements and risked making them increasingly intransigent.

The Sudanese justice system had begun to take measures against the criminals of Darfur. The draft resolution itself had said that countries that had not signed the Rome Statute had no obligations under it. However, the Government of Sudan would cooperate and ask the United Nations Security Council to take any measures necessary to ensure that criminals were brought to justice in the Sudan under its laws, with full equality and fairness.

Mr L F DUQUE (Colombia), responding to the statement by the representative of Venezuela, said that Colombia had endured violence from drug trafficking and terrorism which had claimed many lives. Unfortunately, violence was expected to continue until it was possible to eradicate terrorism in all its manifestations.

He therefore considered that it was unfair of the delegate from Venezuela to refer to the situation in his country in justifying Venezuela's arms purchases. Colombia respected the decisions taken by its neighbour, and had no desire to break the fraternal bond it shared with Venezuela. He said that although Colombia wished to maintain a mutually respectful relationship with the United States, it would not grovel or bow to its every wish. His country received international aid from various sources and would use them for social purposes. It therefore had no intention of using its resources to wage war against brother nations or

neighbours. Colombia was peace-loving, and believed in resolving disputes through dialogue and mutual respect.

With respect to the punishment of war crimes, genocide, and all manifestations of terrorism, he said the Colombian parliament was currently discussing a law on truth, justice, reparation and peace that would support the efforts of the international community. Reassuring the Committee that the draft bill would encourage neither impunity nor vengeance, but would provide a happy medium for nurturing peace, he appealed to the IPU to lend its support to Colombia's peace process as the Government addressed the existence of paramilitary groups. There was a need to interpret the concept of sedition within Colombia's existing legal framework; sedition should be applicable not only to guerrilla fighters, but also to the paramilitary groups. Colombia would ensure that its efforts to secure peace would be carried out within the context of its international obligations, and particularly its commitments under the Rome Statute.

Mr R CETIN (Turkey) said that it was timely that the international community should express its determination to protect and uphold human dignity. The report and draft resolution would constitute an important contribution to the achievement of that goal. International humanitarian law was a basic pillar in the pursuit of that objective. Therefore, compliance with that body of law and the rectification of shortcomings on a global scale were urgently required. With the proliferation of conflicts that victimised increasing numbers of persons, more effective ways and means should be sought for conflict prevention.

It was regrettable that hatred and crimes motivated by racial or religious differences had not been eliminated. Turkey believed it was of the utmost importance to spread the culture of tolerance worldwide as a means of preventing crimes against humanity. The concept of otherness should be removed from cultural references as well as national educational systems and politics.

The scourge of terrorism were frequently cited in the report and draft resolution. Terrorism was a threat to the common values and ideals of all humankind. Therefore, a condemnation of the scourge itself, followed up by serious and effective struggle within the rule of law, was an absolute necessity. Technological means had increased the potential for incomparable destructiveness, and even though terrorists might operate within the

territories of one country, they often received logistical support, personnel, financing and training from another. For that reason, further emphasis should be placed on the responsibility of States that supported terrorism directly or indirectly. The commitment of each State, arising from the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments, not to provide a safe haven and to avoid impunity for terrorists should be reiterated.

The practice of associating terrorism with a particular religion, tradition or national culture was unacceptable, and actually played into the hands of terrorists. Such a practice was not only counterproductive; it could also actually lead to the violation of human rights under certain circumstances. Culture and religion genuinely provided a climate of cooperation and reconciliation, rather than conflict. The lack of a universally agreed definition of terrorism stemmed from the varying perceptions of terrorism by States based on political and ideological factors. It remained one of the controversial issues in the deliberations of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations to draft a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The current discussions within the First Standing Committee demonstrated the magnitude of the challenges facing the international community. The crucial requirement for meeting those challenges must be met by appealing to the conscience of humanity and making use of collective wisdom.

Turning to the subject of Cyprus, he said Turkey had been playing a constructive role towards forging a lasting solution to the existing situation, and had supported the Annan Plan, formulated by the United Nations Secretary-General. During the referendums taken on both sides of the island, the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus had accepted the Plan by an overwhelming majority, while the Greek Cypriots had rejected it. As a guarantor State, Turkey had a duty to protect the rights of Turkish Cypriots. The international community was well aware that Turkey and the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus wished to solve the situation as soon as possible, but at the same time, a lasting solution could be found only through mutual goodwill and efforts exerted on both sides.

Mr G NOUMEIR (Syrian Arab Republic) joined previous speakers who had linked the achievement of peace and stability to global cooperation in addressing all forms of terrorism, including state terrorism and its financing. He

stressed that the entire international community should be mobilised to secure respect for international decisions and their implementation.

In that context, he said that Israel exercised state terrorism on a daily basis and ignored a number of United Nations resolutions with the backing of the United States. He called on the United Nations to do whatever was required to settle the conflicts in the Middle East region, and particularly in the case of the occupation of Iraq. The people of Iraq deserved to exercise their right to peace and stability without foreign interference and domination.

The Syrian Arab Republic had suffered greatly from terrorism, but had faced it courageously. The country was capable of drawing a distinction between legitimate national defence and terrorism. It was dangerous to link terrorism with any particular religion or nation. His delegation therefore called for an international conference to define terrorism, making a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate defence of territory.

All parties that influenced and represented the decision-making process at the international level should be objective and fair in their attempts to secure lasting peace based on international legitimacy and the Charter of the United Nations. Such influence should not perpetuate inequalities, hunger or intolerance, but through dialogue, should serve as a guiding light towards peace, mutual respect among peoples and the promotion of democracy and noble human values.

Mr R M AL-SABT (Bahrain) said that countries around the world were experiencing great insecurity, with many people living in precarious conditions and some forced to live under domination. Claims that the world was more secure today than in previous times were a gross denial of truth and reality.

In order to achieve peace and security, the international community must ensure that justice was preserved, without double standards. Irrespective of racial or national origin, people were unique and should be treated accordingly. The attainment of peace called for a favourable climate in an international order that respected the rights of peoples and compliance with international resolutions. He joined previous speakers in calling for an international agreement to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate defence.

Mr G CERONI FUENTES (Chile) said that Chile had had a traumatic political experience during the period of dictatorship, when all manner of atrocities and human rights abuses had been committed. His Government could therefore appreciate the importance of the draft resolution, which aimed to ensure that justice would reign under all circumstances, and that no war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide or terrorist act would be rewarded with impunity.

The experience of Chile had shown that the courts and justice systems in countries where such offences were rife functioned weakly, if at all: a situation that bred impunity and reinforced authoritarian power. Courts in

such conditions acted on behalf of their governments and continued to operate timidly even after the downfall of those regimes. Institutions such as the ICC were therefore needed to prevent abuses and provide support to domestic courts.

Chile had participated actively in the process to give effect to the Rome Statute and the ICC, and hoped to complete domestic legislative reform as soon as possible. He reiterated his delegation's support for the draft resolution, which it recognised as a step towards full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

*The meeting rose at 1 05 p m*

### **Sitting of Monday, 4 April**

(Afternoon)

*The President of the Committee, Mr E Menem (Argentina), opened the meeting at 3 p m*

#### **Debate** (continued)

Mrs R ONIANG'O (Kenya), thanking the parliament of the Philippines for the warm hospitality extended to participants, said that her parliament looked forward to hosting the 2006 session of the Assembly in Nairobi.

The subject of terrorism was of grave importance to the Kenyan Government, since it had suffered from terrorist attacks in the past, the most recent incidents being the 1998 bombing of the United States embassy and an attack against an Israeli-owned hotel in 2002. In both instances, although the targets of the attacks were foreign interests, a number of Kenyans had lost their lives or had been seriously injured.

Kenya was also host to a large number of refugees fleeing internal conflicts in neighbouring countries. The flow of refugees across its borders had created a certain level of insecurity.

She had the honour to inform the Committee that the Government of Kenya had ratified the Rome Statute a few weeks previously, and urged Kenya's neighbours and all other peace-loving nations to follow suit. The world was indeed a global village, and no one was spared the threat of terrorist attacks.

Turning to the draft resolution, she commended the work of the co-Rapporteurs in preparing an excellent document for the

Committee's consideration. Her delegation was particularly pleased that gender issues had been addressed, but was also encouraged by the mention of corruption, money laundering, drug-trafficking and banking secrecy, all of which were issues of relevance to Kenya. Likewise, she raised the concern that paedophiles from outside Kenya were able to enter her country and commit abuses against children, yet escaped prosecution. Crimes that victimised children anywhere in the world should be incorporated in the category of crimes covered by the draft resolution.

After the major terrorist attacks, the Government of Kenya had adopted a number of measures against terrorism to ensure the safety of its citizens and visitors. She could therefore reassure delegations that they would be warmly welcomed at the next Assembly, with their physical safety guaranteed.

Mr J McGAURAN (Australia) said that his delegation could not accept the amendment submitted by the delegation of Norway according to which references in the draft resolution to terrorism should be eliminated. The draft resolution correctly advised States to enact domestic and international laws in the fight against terrorism.

For its part, the Government of Australia had acted since 11 September 2001, when the war against terror truly began, to strengthen its laws, and had compiled a list of 18 banned terrorist groups. It was true that the task of tackling terrorist activity entailed a trade-off between cherished liberties and often-intrusive laws. It was also true that democracy was fragile.

and could be shattered by terror if it could not strongly defend itself. However, there remained no option but to accept the trade-off. The agents of terror impinged on the civil liberties of citizens. It was not enough to pass domestic laws and to support United Nations treaties and resolutions: States had to be prepared to fight against terrorist cells, in defence of their people, irrespective of the difficulty or time involved.

The citizens of the world needed security that was pre-emptive and not merely responsive, and to that end, international cooperation, exchange of intelligence and international force could be employed. The avid promotion of democracy through free and fair elections would constitute the strongest weapon against terror. Human rights, liberties and economic welfare could be bolstered through the voting process. He juxtaposed the examples of Zimbabwe, whose people had suffered under a tyranny that promoted corrupt elections, and Ukraine, whose people had risen up against corruption in the name of free and fair elections. It was crucial to give full support to countries that yearned for democracy but were stymied by tyranny and terror. The international community should support the people of Iraq who had just emerged from a most difficult election period with courage, determination and a sincere desire for democracy. The fact that Iraqis participated in general elections, despite life-threatening risks, and that they bore the ink stain on their fingers for days after the elections, was bold proof of that desire. Some eight million people, or 60 per cent of the population, had turned out to vote on that historic day when democracy challenged terror. The people of Iraq were the true resistance and freedom fighters. Moreover, he urged Member Parliaments to join in supporting United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (2004) calling for support for reconstruction and the establishment of democracy in Iraq.

In conclusion, he said that the enemy of peace used cunning words, blatant lies and violent actions, and despised democracy, but its evil could be defeated through international resolve.

Mr B-Z ZHAMBALNIMBUEV (Russian Federation), commenting on the problems encountered in harmonising Russian domestic law with international legislation, said that the recognition of the rights and freedoms of persons as supreme values were guaranteed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. It was that spirit that determined the essence,

content, and application of laws and all spheres of Government activity.

Federal legislation in the Russian Federation took the ethnic diversity of its population into account, in accordance with international law. Amendments had been introduced on military and war crimes and on crimes against humanity. Some years earlier, the Government had begun the process of harmonising domestic legislation with the Rome Statute, bearing in mind that the ICC complemented the jurisdiction of national courts. The Government was also working on mechanisms for cooperation with the ICC.

With specific reference to terrorism, the Russian Federation had learned from its experience that no single country could fight terrorism, and that the use of force was not enough. Existing systems of international cooperation should play an important role in the harmonisation of legislation and cooperation among authorities at various levels, otherwise, differences between national systems and institutions would create obstacles in the search for a common legal outlook. Reaching an agreement on the concept of terrorism and adopting timely measures to counteract terrorist activity would prove problematic. There should be no room for double standards or interpretations on the extradition of suspects and their accomplices.

He drew attention to the rise of cyber-terrorism, and pointed out that there was currently no existing international framework to deal with the misuse of the Internet and information technology for terrorist aims. Admittedly, international and national legislation could not provide an adequate response to the challenges posed by terrorism today. The Russian Federation accorded priority to cooperation among international organisations, and that position had been reiterated in various forums. Fellow parliamentarians must exert greater effort in eliminating current discrepancies in national legislations to fight crimes that threatened peace and human well-being.

Mrs J ERIYO (Uganda) noted with appreciation the concern expressed by the United Nations Secretary-General and Member Parliaments attending the Assembly for the plight of people around the world, particularly women and children suffering at the hands of terrorists. The people of Uganda were deeply concerned by continued violence and terrorism dating back many years, from the period of

former President Idi Amin up to the present. The Lord's Resistance Army was guilty of grave atrocities in Uganda, particularly against women and children. The abduction of minors, killings, rape and maiming and other forms of brutality were commonplace.

Her delegation did not support the amendment proposed by the delegation of Norway according to which the word "terrorism" should be removed from the draft resolution. Terrorism denoted a specific crime, deserving of separate mention, and could not be compared with any of the other categories under consideration.

The people of Uganda were also vulnerable to upheavals and suffering in neighbouring countries. Uganda had received large flows of refugees from the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and previously Rwanda, and she took the opportunity to praise the efforts of the Rwandan Government in achieving national stability. She also welcomed the news that the Government of the Sudan had reached an understanding with rebel groups. She appealed to the international community to support efforts in the Sudan and the region to put an end to the suffering of the people of the Darfur region.

She applauded the role of the IPU, the United Nations, the ICC and other international bodies in such crises. There was a need to build stronger cooperation for peace and security. Parliamentarians should take keen interest in the global issues of crime and terrorism, which were often worse than natural disasters. At the same time, she commended the worldwide expressions of support for the victims of the recent tsunami that had ravaged many areas bordering the Indian Ocean. It would be fitting for the world community to repeat that show of solidarity by reaching out to the victims of war-mongers and terrorists.

The Government of Uganda had ratified the Rome Statute in 2003, but hoped to do much more to avert global suffering than simply ratifying treaties and attending international meetings. Much could be accomplished through international cooperation, but there was also a need for a mechanism to harmonise local legislation among countries to assist in the implementation of agreements and the prosecution of criminals.

In a query to the representative of the ICC, she sought clarification on the relationship between Uganda's recently enacted amnesty law and the jurisdiction of the Court. Her Government was currently involved in amnesty

negotiations with the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army, an internationally recognised terrorist group. Members of the group would have liked to surrender under the provisions of the amnesty, in order to be reintegrated into their communities in a constructive manner. However, many feared that they might face charges before the ICC if they were to give themselves up.

Mr A DESTEXHE (Belgium) commented on the specific role of parliamentarians in relation to the work of the ICC. He agreed with the representative from Canada that it was not enough for parliaments to simply ratify the Rome Statute. Only 40 of some 100 countries that had ratified the Statute had passed domestic legislation in order to collaborate with the ICC. He therefore stressed the importance of hastening the enactment of appropriate national legislation.

Much optimism had been expressed with regard to the prospects of the Court, but he wished to point out that after two years in office, the Prosecutor of the Court had been seized of a number of issues, without delivering a single indictment to date. That, he believed, was reason for concern.

The great weakness of the ICC was that there was no role for victims in its trial procedure, which amply provided for the participation of the accused, a prosecutor and judges of the Court. He proposed that the next step in the fight against impunity was to reinforce the involvement of victims, possibly through contributions to the Victims Trust Fund under the jurisdiction of the Court. So far only 10 countries had contributed to the Fund. Apart from increasing participation in the Fund, concerted efforts should be made to set up a permanent mechanism for compensation. There was full agreement that it was vital to fight against impunity, but in the long-term it was also important to provide compensation to victims.

Mr S M TUFAIL (Pakistan) said that Pakistan played a key role in the eradication of terrorism worldwide and valued stability, peaceful coexistence with its neighbours and the adoption of peaceful approaches to conflict resolution. Thousands of Pakistanis had lost their lives as a result of terrorist acts, as a response to which the Government of Pakistan had initiated and continually reviewed wide-ranging legal and administrative counter-terrorism measures, predating the events of 11 September 2001. Thanks to such efforts, the

Pakistani Government had been instrumental in the capture and arrest of more than 600 terrorists, including key operatives of al-Qaida and the Taliban, in Afghanistan. In addition to its contribution within the United Nations framework, the Pakistani Government had been cooperating with other States and agencies such as Interpol in information exchange and extradition.

The application of justice to address, rectify and prevent war crimes, genocide and terrorism should be guided by responsibility, fairness and non-discrimination; the absence of justice bred criminality.

Official or traditional judicial mechanisms were essential pillars of societies. The international community had created a substantive set of rules for the pursuit of justice, including provisions on human rights and criminal justice. There was a need to draw a distinction between legitimate struggles for self-determination and criminal terrorist acts. In response to the former, Governments should seek to address their root causes instead of labeling them as terrorism. In that context, he highlighted the need for agreement on a clear definition of the concept of terrorism.

The mechanisms of the ICC and ad hoc international courts established for specific purposes had contributed in some measure to securing justice for the victims of war crimes. National parliaments must above all ensure that national law incorporated their States' obligations under international law. As the legislative authority, parliaments must take the initiative in the promulgation of legal measures that effectively addressed crimes, with no room for impunity. Parliaments had a specific role and responsibility to ensure the implementation of international law, particularly in times of war.

Mr M HALAIQAH (Jordan) said that although his delegation supported the draft resolution, it would have welcomed a reference to Israeli practices in the occupied territories and the United States occupation of Iraq. The Middle East had endured many years of conflict due to the occupation of Arab territories by Israel, which had caused extensive damage and hampered development. It was high time that the international community took action against Israel and the United States occupation, which operated ostensibly under the banner of counter-terrorism.

The international community was now beset by terrorism carried out by groups as well as States. Jordan was hardly in an enviable position, lying geographically next to Palestine

and Iraq, and its Government was trying to put an end to conflicts on the basis of the relevant international resolutions and jurisdiction, and by adhering to a firm stance against terrorism in cooperation with the international community. International cooperation, which had resulted in the establishment of courts and tribunals to try war crimes, needed also to consider carefully the creation of new mechanisms for understanding poverty and repression, some of the reasons for terrorism, with a view to eradicating its causes.

Mr E KOURULA (International Criminal Court), responding to the question posed by the representative from Uganda concerning the relationship between Uganda's amnesty law and the ICC, said that he would try to give as complete a response as possible, but that as a sitting appellate judge in the Court, he was not in a position to divulge details of issues relating to cases. As far as the amnesty in general was concerned, once a referral had been made to the Court, it remained with the Court. When the Statute had been drafted, it had been thought that Governments might oppose the referral of cases to the Court. However, in the cases of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, the concept of "self-referrals" had emerged, whereby the States themselves had brought their situations before the Court. After referral to the Court, the evolution of a case depended on the individual case in question, but in principle either a judgment could be passed or a general amnesty granted, depending on the course of events in the country concerned. The outcome very much depended on the circumstances pertaining to the State itself. However, many cases did not meet the criteria to qualify for trial before the Court as war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide.

With reference to the issue raised by the representative from Belgium on the absence of indictments in the two years since the Prosecutor of the Court has been appointed, the office of the Prosecutor was practically independent from the judges. He was not in a position to comment on the status of cases before the Court. When the Court had originally been established, judges had been elected, but due to a lack of consensus among States, there had been a delay of six months before a Prosecutor had been appointed. The Prosecutor had announced that he had six situations under review, official investigations had begun on two, with a third case emerging,

and a number of others were pending. There were almost 2,000 communications from various sources before the Prosecutor, so it was understandable that it would take some time for such a volume of work to be processed before investigations could begin.

By way of contrast, he cited the examples of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, respectively, which in each case dealt with a single country. The jurisdiction of the ICC, on the other hand, encompassed almost the entire world, with situations posing a variety of technical difficulties.

Mr C JAUREGUI (Mexico) said that he was grateful that Member Parliaments had the opportunity to discuss their crucial role in creating institutions that could perform the formidable task of fighting criminality at the global level, given the difficulties encountered in concluding the Rome Statute and the establishment of the ICC. Although the Rome Statute did not address terrorism directly, terrorist activity must be fought through effective measures, conventions and protocols that facilitated international cooperation. There were other types of crimes such as drug trafficking, corruption and money laundering, that would soon receive further consideration within statutes. The legal definition of aggression too deserved international consideration. The collective effort of the international community in facing future challenges must be based on a universal acceptance of the concept of global justice.

The international community must agree to reject bilateral agreements or arrangements imposed by certain States in order to secure impunity for their nationals. A further challenge was the adoption of implementation laws that would allow States to comply fully with the Rome Statute. However, the greatest challenge was perhaps the recognition that justice would be fully served in ICC decisions. If States were not confident that the Court could mete out justice and effectively fulfil its mandate, and that the decisions were more than the sheer utterances of judges, the credibility of the Court would be undermined and the Court might be perceived as merely another one of the many tribunals that had been created throughout history. In the hope of averting that possibility, his delegation was formulating language for the document in order to harmonise it with the terms contained in the Rome Statute.

He emphasised the relevance of a Fund that would generate the necessary resources to assist victims, and noted that the Statute itself used the term Trust Fund to signal the intent to safeguard the interests of victims through mechanisms offering assistance.

A collective and effective effort must be made between parliaments and organisations that shared the same objectives. Despite the enormous challenge, it was imperative to set up instruments that made it impossible for perpetrators to repeat war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and aggression once those laws were codified.

Ninety-eight States had already ratified the Rome Statute, and the Government was taking steps to ensure that Mexico would be included among the first 100 States to have done so. It was working with local congresses, and was close to completing the process of ratification. The duty to safeguard justice was more than ever an extremely important task for which parliaments bore responsibility.

Ms T SKEI GRANDE (Norway) said that the current debate lay at the core of the IPU's work on peace. There were several reasons for the international community to fight against impunity. Firstly, prosecution was vital for the prevention of future crimes. There should be no doubt that there would be no pardon for the commission of such acts. Secondly, prosecution was a form of justice for the victims of crimes, and thirdly, the prosecution of international crimes could help to build peace and reconciliation. Long-term peace would depend on the prosecution of those who had committed international crimes during conflicts.

The establishment of the ICC and the international criminal tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda had been a breakthrough in international law that might even be called a legal revolution. Certain crimes were so grave that they concerned the international community as a whole. Agreement had been reached on the definition of the crimes and the situations to which international criminal law could be applied. The Government of Norway had provided its strongest support to that work.

The ICC already had several situations referred to it, and had become operative. However, the Court could not function without the cooperation of States. It was therefore vital that States should become parties to the agreements on cooperation with the ICC in order to ensure its effectiveness. She joined

previous colleagues in urging States that had not yet ratified the Rome Statute to do so urgently, and rejected all bilateral agreements aimed at providing immunity

The Norwegian delegation had submitted a proposal to delete terrorism from the draft resolution. Although acts of terrorism were abhorrent criminal acts for which there must be no impunity, that category of crimes should not be included in the draft resolution. The Parliament of Norway categorically condemned terrorism and all its implications as strongly as any other Member Parliament attending the Assembly. However, the main focus of the draft resolution was on genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which were crimes addressed by the ICC at the international level and by the tribunals established by the United Nations Security Council. At present, crimes of terrorism were not within the jurisdiction of the ICC, but some crimes might be covered by the definitions of crimes under its jurisdiction. The main emphasis at present should be to consolidate the ICC, and not to adopt a resolution that might contribute to the reopening of a debate on whether or not to include acts of terrorism in its jurisdiction.

On a note of optimism, she said that although persons who had committed crimes against humanity and war crimes were still in hiding with the help of some governments, recently, prominent persons had surrendered to international criminal prosecution. The Norwegian delegation hoped that was an indication of a worldwide trend.

Mr M KAYVEAS (Malaysia) said that the Malaysian Government condemned all acts, methods and practices associated with terrorism. Since terrorism was a global phenomenon that transcended national boundaries, the fight against it demanded effective international action carried out in an impartial and objective manner. In that regard, the Malaysian delegation called for the convening of a world conference of leaders to comprehensively address the issue of international terrorism.

It was imperative for the international community to formulate a universally accepted definition of terrorism and to identify and undertake appropriate measures to deal with its root causes. His Government was of the view that the implementation of measures against international terrorism should always be consistent with internationally recognised principles governing international relations and international law.

Terrorism should not be associated with any particular race, culture or religion. Profiling by religion or ethnicity heightened polarisation along religious or ethnic lines, and extremist elements would seize the opportunity to propagate further unrest and violence. However, the resolution of regional conflicts, addressing development issues and the underlying factors that supported terrorism, would make a positive contribution towards international efforts to combat that phenomenon.

The Government of Malaysia would undertake measures to guard against the spread of religious extremism and fanaticism by promoting tolerance among its diverse communities and religions, with an emphasis on moderation, and would continue to monitor and take decisive action to prevent the dissemination of extremist ideology.

As with any other activity, terrorism was dependent on financing, and there was increasing evidence that terrorist organisations were raising, transferring and hiding the funds used to support their activities through crime. The global effort to combat the financing of terrorism continued to face many challenges stemming from the complexities of international financial transactions and the rather uneven application of regulatory and control measures.

In terms of international efforts to suppress and prevent the financing of terrorism, the Malaysian Government had established appropriate regulations through the Anti-Money Laundering Act (2001) to give effect to United Nations resolution 1373 (2001). In 2000 Malaysia had joined the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, a regional organisation having observer status with the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF), and had since become a member of the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units. It had since 2003, signed memorandums of understanding for the sharing of financial intelligence on a bilateral basis with Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines and was in the process of elaborating similar agreements with 13 other countries of the region, and as far afield as the United States, the United Kingdom and Argentina.

Mr R PEZ FERRO (Cuba) said that terrorism was a phenomenon to be confronted by the entire international community in a climate of close cooperation, within the framework of respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The draft resolution should make a stronger reference to

terrorism. His delegation had therefore proposed an amendment to express utmost rejection of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their manifestations, irrespective of the attacker, target or locations of such acts, and regardless of the motive, even when States were directly or indirectly involved. The Government of Cuba strongly condemned the manipulation by some States of the inherent right of legitimate self-defense to justify the commission of acts of state terrorism, and their attempts to legitimise aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of other States.

Since 1959 the people of Cuba had been victimised by innumerable terrorist acts that had killed and injured thousands of people and severely damaged the national economy. It was well known that those terrorist attacks were organised, financed and executed from the territory of the United States, where dozens of recognised and self-confessed terrorists lived and moved around freely, acting with impunity against Cuba over the past 40 years.

Nevertheless, five Cuban citizens had been unfairly sentenced by a Miami federal court, without the benefit of due process, and had received lengthy prison terms that included life imprisonment for the simple offence of having infiltrated known terrorist groups in order to raise the alarm on criminal attacks against Cuba. It was a shameful paradox that those young men had been sentenced for fighting against terrorism.

The Government of Cuba had supported and continued to support the establishment of an impartial, non-selective, effective and just international criminal tribunal that complemented national justice systems. Such a tribunal should be truly independent and free from the influence of political interests that could undermine its very essence. However, the ICC had come into existence with a high level of subordination to the decisions of the United Nations Security Council, and consequently, with a jurisdiction that could be held hostage to the threat of veto by one of its permanent members. That meant that States which were not party to the Rome Statute had the ability to exercise control over the work of the Court, thereby compromising the safeguards designed to ensure that the Court would not apply its jurisdiction in a selective, politicised or discriminatory manner.

The Government of Cuba did not oppose the Court. On the contrary, it maintained a constructive attitude towards the establishment of an international criminal justice system that

was genuinely impartial. The delegation of Cuba hoped that the international community would seriously consider the call for the creation of an international criminal tribunal that was able to fully realise the objectives for which it had been established.

Mrs L A P ROSALES (Philippines) said her delegation supported the inclusion of gender-based crimes in the draft resolution, considering the experience during the Second World War of Asian women in the Philippines, Korea and China. Many "comfort women" whose human rights were violated by the military during the Second World War were still struggling for justice and the restoration of their dignity.

Parliamentarians from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had a duty to urge their Governments to protect and promote the rule of law, justice and democracy in their societies. They must therefore not tolerate governments that did not respect democratically elected parliaments representing their constituencies. ASEAN was in a process of democratisation, and must ensure that the rule of law, representative democracy, social justice and human rights were promoted through the policies and legislation adopted by duly elected parliaments within the region.

In that respect, the need for the draft resolution was urgent, as it provided the legislative environment for the ratification of the Rome Statute within the constituencies of the region. It was particularly regrettable that Asia ranked the lowest among the global regions in the number of countries that had ratified the Statute, since its populations needed to be protected against violence on a daily basis. Furthermore, Asian countries had concluded the highest number of bilateral immunity agreements with the United States.

Her delegation strongly urged the Government of the Philippines and others in the ASEAN group to join the international movement for the ratification of the Rome Statute, for a number of reasons. First of all, under the treaty's principle of complementarity, the ICC strengthened the sovereignty of States parties, as it provided for the States' prerogative to try cases using its domestic judicial system and national implementing legislation.

Secondly, with millions of migrant workers from the region working in many parts of the world, including some working in areas affected by war and conflict, the ICC provided the option for nationals from the region to seek

redress if they fell victim to crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court. The Rome Statute provided special protection for victims and their families through the creation of the Victims and Witnesses Unit and the Victims Trust Fund that would take care of reparations, rehabilitation and compensation. The Court therefore provided adequate institutional protection and guarantees for the rights of victims.

Thirdly, with the region's legal expertise in international law and experience in the drafting of the Rome Statute, South-East Asian countries could contribute significantly to the shaping of the Court.

Fourthly, the Philippines had played a crucial role in ASEAN and the wider Asian region. Having had a colourful history and having disposed of a dictatorship through peaceful means, its "people power" had inspired the world. Ratification of the Statute by the Philippines would serve as an example to other countries.

Fifthly, the establishment of the Court had consolidated the will of the international community to end impunity and prevent future crimes. Again, through its ratification, the Philippines would make a contribution to world peace through the strengthening of international justice.

The Philippines and ASEAN should not miss the opportunity to advance the rule of law and mechanisms for justice at such a crucial period in history, when war and conflict persisted despite the struggle for justice and peace. She welcomed the vote by the Government of the Philippines in favour of United Nations Security Council resolution 1593 (2005) on the situation in the Darfur region, and expressed the hope that further progress would be made through the referral of the situation to the ICC.

Ratification of the Rome Statute would constitute a lasting legacy to present and future generations, and she urged her Asian counterparts to hasten the process in their respective countries.

Mr M WHBEE (Israel) said that those parties who spoke of peace should be reminded that it was through direct negotiations that peace could be achieved. The Government of Israel attached great importance to negotiations as the key to peace. He said much of the content of the statement made earlier by the Palestinian representative could be refuted. The real situation was evident in Israeli towns and the Palestinian territories. In the past four years, some 21,000 Palestinian operations in Israel

had killed hundreds of Israelis. In reference to comments made by the representative from Jordan, he said that Jordan had controlled the West Bank for 19 years. It was only since the peace process had begun between Israel and Jordan that with Israel's assistance exports to the United States from the qualifying industrial zones had increased to around 700 million dollars.

It was time for frank and bold dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians in the search for a solution to the conflict. Israel was doing its part, but he emphasised that discussions in all forums should be amicable and not held in a manner that bred hatred. It was clear that all parties sought peace.

With respect to the discussion on terrorism, he said it was up to the international community to determine the causes and effects of that phenomenon. In recent years, the world had begun to fully understand the real consequences of terrorism. Israel had experienced it for a long time.

Mr K LOCKE (New Zealand) endorsed the comments made by the speakers from Canada and Australia in opposing the bilateral non-surrender agreements promoted by the United States Government to grant American citizens immunity from prosecution. There were three ways to counteract the efforts of the United States Government in that regard. In the first place, parliaments could insist that such agreements, if signed, should be subject to ratification in parliament, and then defeat them at that stage. Another option was for parliamentarians to seek a review of any immunity agreements that had been ratified. In the third option, parliaments could realise and use their power as a global collective to help vulnerable nations to resist pressure exerted by the United States Government to sign such agreements.

It would undermine the credibility of the ICC if on the one hand the parties guilty of crimes against humanity in the Darfur region of the Sudan were punished, yet United States commanders who committed similar crimes were not. The issue was tangible, as the United States obliteration of the Iraqi city of Fallujah and killing of many civilians there had been defined in some quarters as a crime against humanity, which would be covered by the ICC.

In dealing with such issues, it would be preferable to limit consideration to the category of crimes against humanity set out in the Rome Statute, which covered a variety of major terrorist acts, rather than to introduce terrorism

as a new category of crimes, and one that was not covered by the Rome Statute. Speaking in his personal capacity, he expressed support for the amendment submitted by the delegation of Norway in that respect.

The term "terrorism" was controversial as most delegates used the term to denote non-State actors, such as al-Qaida, and others had made reference to state terrorism. Speaking on behalf of the Green Party, he said he believed that the main terrorist threat in the world today was state terrorism. The only terrorism New Zealand had suffered was state terrorism, in 1985, when the Government of France had bombed an anti-nuclear Greenpeace vessel in Auckland harbour.

The agents of state terrorism, whether it was committed by the Burmese State, the United States, the Sudan, the Russian Federation against Chechens, Israel against Palestinians, or the Philippines against the leaders of progressive parliamentary parties, had taken far more lives than the criminals of al-Qaida, and should naturally be brought to justice.

The international community should be wary of gullibly accepting United States President Bush's "war on terrorism" that was used as an excuse for invasions, gaining control over resources and undermining human rights throughout the world. Acceptance of the Bush approach would contradict efforts to advance democratic rights - to use the ICC to discourage human rights violations through the constant threat that violators would be brought to justice through the ICC process.

The main task was to increase the number of countries that adhered to the ICC. In that regard, New Zealand was helping some of its smaller Pacific island neighbours to draft implementing legislation.

The establishment of the ICC was a great achievement. It was a formidable instrument for the respect of human rights; the international community should make the most of it.

Mr T KARALLIYADDA (Sri Lanka) gave a historical outline of the period leading up to the formation of the United Nations in 1945, with efforts aimed at putting an end to conflicts and forging lasting world peace. The development of international law had further expanded with the coming of age of the United Nations and its growing membership, and had created legal commitments for the international community. The Charter of the United Nations had incorporated norms on crimes such as terrorism, genocide and similar crimes against

humanity, and by adopting the norms established by the world body as precedents, United Nations Member States had developed their national legal systems accordingly. Today, those norms had become the accepted standards of the world.

The conflicts facing the international community today were intrinsically different from the straightforward conflicts between two warring States in former times. Due to the very nature of present conflicts, it was often difficult to ascertain whether they were prompted by aggression, and if so, which of the parties was the aggressor or the aggrieved.

The Government of Sri Lanka had done its utmost in trying to find a negotiated solution to a protracted armed conflict within its borders. As a nation that was influenced by the Buddhist principles of compassion, the people of Sri Lanka had often reached the point of indulgence in their understanding of the activities of certain groups that had resorted to terror as a means of achieving their ends. The question of impunity arose in situations where those crimes were justified on prima facie grounds.

Parliamentarians should remain mindful of their duty to compromise between the rule of law and existing grievances inasmuch as it was their duty to address such grievances through legislation. Since parliamentarians were empowered to act and react by the passage of necessary legislation, they would be failing in their duty if they remained passive while crimes were being committed with impunity. Crimes were crimes, no matter how noble the cause, and to treat a crime with impunity was to denigrate the principle of law and order, and to create a lawless situation that would imperil entire nations.

Special emphasis should be placed on the establishment and the functioning of mechanisms to provide for judgement and sentencing, as formulated in the title of the topic under discussion. No mechanism was worth discussing if it was not activated by a suitable operating method. Therefore, parliaments should not only pass legislation, but also ensure effective enforcement. In sum, he believed the role of parliaments in that regard was to identify individual and group grievances that might create a justification for crimes, and to introduce balanced legislation to defuse potential unrest. Parliaments should also ensure adherence to the existing legal regime by not treating special cases with impunity on any grounds, and they should also strengthen the implementation of existing law in order to

ensure that laws were not only on the statute books, but were also obeyed

Mrs J DE LA MATA DE PUENTE (Peru) said that one of the major aspects of international law in the last century had been the creation of international norms to support human rights. The common denominator of the various human rights conventions and instruments of international humanitarian law was the obligation of States to act as the guarantor of human rights. The American Convention on Human Rights had been incorporated into Peruvian national law. The Convention recognised the need for effective mechanisms to be established to combat human rights offences and to ensure that perpetrators would not go unpunished, especially for political reasons. Nonetheless, Latin America had the opposite experience; its governments often provided impunity for criminals.

In a 2001 Decision, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had ruled against the Government of Peru in the Barrios Altos case, stating that the State held responsibility for investigating and prosecuting human rights violations and should guarantee that there was no impunity. In that instance, the Court had established that amnesty and other means of avoiding punishment or investigation were inadmissible. No one should be exempted from judicial or legal prosecution.

The speaker expressed the hope that efforts to bring the former President of Peru, Mr Fujimori, back to Peru to face charges of crimes against humanity would be fruitful. The former President had destroyed democracy and its institutions in Peru, and was the author and overseer of pervasive corruption that had led to the disappearance of 2 billion dollars from the state coffers. Justice and truth must be sought, and punishment must be enforced for persons who carried out ignominious crimes.

Laws that covered up human rights violations and impeded victims and their families from discovering the truth were not acceptable. In that spirit, the parliament of Peru had ratified the Rome Statute, Article 29 of which established that jurisdiction of the ICC was not to be limited, and that its decisions could not be superseded by amnesty. The Government of Peru had also approved and ratified a number of relevant conventions on war crimes, crimes against humanity and terrorism, and had approved and recognised the jurisdiction of the International Court of

Justice and the United Nations Committee against Torture.

The parliament was currently studying initiatives to amend the Criminal Code in order to include a prohibition against amnesty or similar measures for persons guilty of crimes against humanity, genocide or torture, among others. The Peruvian Government had complied with its international obligations, and asked other States to do the same in practice, and not just in theory.

Her delegation supported the draft resolution before the Committee, and wished to remind the Government of Japan that all States had an obligation not to obstruct justice. It should therefore not obstruct the extradition of Mr Fujimori.

Mrs A MANAFOVA (Azerbaijan) said the establishment of the ICC in 1998 was a logical culmination of the expression of international condemnation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism following the world wars during the previous century. Unfortunately, the definition of aggression had not been elaborated in the Rome Statute, and the ICC had no competence to prosecute persons guilty of that offence. In the same vein, crimes of terrorism had not been included within the jurisdiction of the Court, and a number of key issues had yet to be resolved. National parliaments should be more active in facilitating the work of the ICC in seeking improvements in the norms of international and national law.

Irrespective of the effectiveness of national and international judicial mechanisms, they could not protect a society from criminal actions. Universal moral condemnation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism were of special importance.

Armenian factions had been conducting large-scale ethnic cleansing and killing of Azerbaijanis in certain regions. It was lamentable that those acts had not been condemned by either international organisations or the international community. That display of indifference had served to strengthen the aspirations of the aggressors. In 1992 the city of Khojaly had been leveled overnight by Armenian military groups, killing hundreds of civilians including women and children. Over one thousand hostages had been taken at the time and several hundred of those had been disabled from their injuries.

Paragraph 9 of the draft resolution proposed that parliaments should focus on the development of mechanisms for the exposure

and condemnation of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, so that such crimes would not remain unpunished and the restoration of victims' rights would be ensured. It was necessary to apply that norm to the work of the IPU. The IPU should introduce and publish a rating of States responsible for those serious crimes, as was the practice of some States with regard to human rights abuses, freedom of the press and corruption. In that regard, she proposed the addition of a paragraph to the resolution requesting the Union to set up a special group to monitor war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, terrorism, and to report its findings annually to the Assembly.

Mr J J MWIIMBU (Zambia) said that the process of parliamentary examination of proposed legislation and the consideration of international instruments varied from country to country. Legislatures had developed systems that represented a wide range of models and a vast array of choices in their efforts to streamline that process. The pace of the development of new legislation was accelerating in the current context of globalisation, and it was the growing focus of international organisations and a number of developing countries that were critically examining their own systems in the wake of major political changes.

The Parliament of Zambia fully supported the ICC and the draft resolution. With a decline in autocratic regimes and a decline in top-down economic and political systems, increasing numbers of developing countries were attempting to develop their legislatures and simplify the methods of incorporating international conventions into national law, or were simply adopting international conventions. It was not unusual to find countries concluding agreements for the sake of aid.

However, the examination of legislation and international instruments, while having its share of success stories, was an uncertain process. Legislatures were political institutions, and as such were subject to shifts in external demand and to the dynamics of power struggles. Elections could effect a change of regime and thereby complicate the delivery of sustained efforts.

The establishment of mechanisms that would provide for the judgement and sentencing of all forms of crimes was imperative if democracy was to prosper. Such a progressive step must be credited to the action

of the victims and their families, dedicated international lawyers and jurists, friendly governments, non-governmental organisations supported by the media, and individuals. In order to perform effectively, international criminal justice systems needed the support of national parliaments if they were to incorporate essential elements such as clear legal concepts, appropriate frameworks, political consensus and will, and political legitimacy in the eyes of the people. If a majority of parliaments supported the ICC by taking the necessary steps with respect to their respective domestic legislation, the opposition to implementation would be weakened.

Mr J H VAN DER MERWE (South Africa) noted that no specific reference had been made in the draft resolution to regional parliaments. His delegation wished to propose the addition of a paragraph urging all regional parliaments to mobilise States to ratify relevant international agreements and to incorporate their provisions into domestic law. The States represented by Member Parliaments should be encouraged to strengthen domestic and regional programmes to raise awareness and to harmonise mechanisms for the punishment of crimes against humanity through the sharing of good practices.

He sought clarification on the time frame envisaged in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, which referred to crimes committed before the entry into force of the Rome Statute, without specifying how far back in time the resolution was intended to extend.

Parliaments were in a unique position to muster support for the implementation of a strong ICC. The critical ingredient for ensuring the success of the ICC was a broad-based political will to see the institution develop and thrive. Member Parliaments would be key players in that process.

Mr A BAFADEL (Yemen) said that Yemen had been a victim of terrorism, and was a partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism, but that differences in outlook remained between the two countries. As regards al-Qaida, the Government of Yemen had chosen the path of dialogue to exert a positive influence over many young persons that might otherwise be vulnerable to extremist ideas, rather than the use of force, which was the approach used by the United States to address situations all over the world. There were also diverging views with respect to the

concept of terrorism Yemen approved of Palestinian and Iraqi resistance against occupation, while the United States regarded such movements as terrorist That was the reason Cheikh Mohamed Al-Moayed had been kidnapped and taken to the United States for trial The United States knew fully well that it would not achieve its goals under the laws of Yemen, and that, furthermore, Palestinian resistance factions had official offices in Yemen

The Assembly should appeal to the United Nations to formulate a definition of terrorism and to devise the means by which the international community could be joined, under the auspices of the United Nations, to fight terrorism

Peace could not be achieved through force, but through dialogue The United Nations should take the leading role, particularly in Palestine and Iraq, to nurture peaceful democracy and freedom, as opposed to the paradoxical United States concept of bringing military occupation as a precondition for freedom and democracy Occupation in itself would lead to instability and reinforce terrorism all over the world

The Government of Yemen appreciated the fact that the United States had supported the trial of criminals responsible for killings and abuses in the Darfur region of the Sudan, but the United States nationals responsible for abuses in the Guantánamo and Abu-Ghreib prisons should also be brought to trial under ICC jurisdiction He also underscored the selective approach taken by the United States with regard to weapons of mass destruction, and endorsed the initiative taken by former United States President Kennedy decades earlier, when he proposed peaceful means to rid the world, including the United States, of weapons of mass destruction

Mr T SAAD (Tunisia) said that the achievement of peace and international security and the task of combating extremism, fanaticism and terrorism were important issues that pointed clearly to the need to lay the foundation for an international policy based on dialogue The Government of Tunisia attached great importance to peace and dialogue among cultures and civilisations, and joined the international community in upholding the noble values of tolerance and moderation Parliaments should call for an international conference to work out the methodology for combating terrorism and to establish the necessary structures to fight war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide It was also

necessary to set up a mechanism that would be binding on all States to combat such phenomena

There were enormous gaps in prosperity and development worldwide, and the resulting marginalisation and exclusion of social groups created a breeding ground for extremism and terrorism It was therefore in the interest of the entire international community to endeavour to close those gaps and work towards partnership and solidarity among peoples Tunisia would be hosting the World Summit on the Information Society in November 2005 The event would provide an excellent opportunity to explore avenues to narrow the digital and technological divide between North and South

The elimination of terrorism and extremism was a shared responsibility, and in that context, he recalled that nine years previously the President of Tunisia had warned that terrorism posed a challenge to the West, and that by granting political asylum to fanatics and extremists in the West, those countries were undermining human rights

Mrs I KAYUMBA (Rwanda) welcomed the opportunity to share the experience of Rwanda concerning the massive genocide that had transpired in 1994, under the passive watch of the international community Over one million Rwandans had perished in three months After the genocide had been halted it was fervently hoped that the persons who had planned and carried out the atrocities would be prosecuted However, it had proved extremely problematic to achieve justice In order to avoid impunity, remedy had been sought through recourse to the Criminal Code, which in itself was somewhat paradoxical, since the Code had not originally been devised to deal with crimes such as genocide Considering the large numbers of persons involved, it had not been possible to bring them before the usual court system for sentencing, so people's courts (*gacacas*) had been established, and remained in effect

The international community eventually established an International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which had examined only 20 cases in its 10-year existence The Government of Rwanda supported the ICC, but perhaps because of its experience with the ICTR, it felt that parliaments should take action to enact legislation in order to set up jurisdictions at the national level as needed The ICC could never replace national jurisdiction, although admittedly, the advantage of the ICC was that its scope would be much

wider than a national court system. Its effectiveness, however, depended on many factors that were difficult to define or foresee. Despite the goodwill of the judges and other officials, there was a risk that it might not be able to live up to its potential.

The mandate of the ICTR was about to expire, and only few cases had led to actual sentencing. It was therefore easy to be pessimistic about the future of the ICC, even if there was a need for such an institution. The international community should exercise greater political will and diplomatic effort in ensuring that the ICC would be genuinely effective.

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom) said that he was optimistic about the international approach to the issues raised during the course of discussion. Moreover, the establishment of the ICC had provided the machinery through which the desired goals could be achieved. He was also heartened by the number of ratifications the Rome Statute had accrued, but expressed the hope that more would follow. Queries had been raised regarding the delay in the presentation of indictments. He was therefore grateful that the Committee had had the benefit of Mr Kourula's expertise in providing an explanation for the delay.

From his own professional experience as a former Attorney-General, he could well appreciate the time and care it took to prepare and present indictments. Nothing was worse than presenting a case that failed because of a lack of evidence. He expressed the hope that before long, once of the Court had minimised that danger, indictments would be presented.

Some speakers had made the point that the Rome Statute failed to incorporate an agreed definition of terrorism. The drafting committee might have to consider how to avoid confusion between the first three components and terrorism, which was not within the Court's remit, and yet to ensure that the Committee would not be seen to be soft on terrorism.

Mr A KULIKOV (Russian Federation), responding to the fact that the representative from New Zealand had erroneously named the Russian Federation within the context of state terrorism, recalled that Chechen separatists had created a criminal regime. Among the crimes committed by the separatists, he mentioned that in 1993 over 2,000 Russians had been killed, and more than 3,000 expelled from Chechnya, at which point the Russian

Government had been forced to adopt measures to restore constitutional order. Furthermore, the separatists had committed genocide against foreigners in 1996, which included the killing of a citizen of New Zealand.

The Russian Federation supported the report and draft resolution, and firmly intended to uphold international standards and the Charter of the United Nations in safeguarding law and order. One of the main tasks for the Russian Federation was the creation of an effective state mechanism to counteract terrorism, and that included the establishment of an appropriate legal framework. The Government had decided to replace an earlier law on terrorism and to include a pre-emptive component as well as provisions to govern counter-terrorism measures in a continuous process at the regional and central levels.

The spate of terrorist attacks worldwide had led the world community to acknowledge the universal right to protection against terrorism. Cooperation in the criminal prosecution of persons participating in such activities was called for, as it was unacceptable that persons guilty of criminal acts in one State should be granted political asylum in another. Politically motivated statements could not justify the denial of requests for the surrender of terrorists. If States continued to act in that manner, the discussion on terrorism would be protracted, while innocent people continued to die all over the world. Russian legislation provided an effective response to violations of the law, including during anti-terrorist operations in Chechnya, and that had been confirmed by military, martial law and military court practices in the Russian Federation. In that spirit, he said he hoped the amendments and sub-amendments submitted by his delegation would be accepted.

Mr P BIERI (Switzerland) said that lasting peace would be achieved only if injustices were investigated and justice rendered with respect to the perpetrators and victims of crimes. He welcomed the fact that the Committee was discussing the ICC, since the Rome Statute opened a new chapter in the judicial system. The Court could seek out the truth and prosecute criminals, and its contribution to the rule of law would serve to strengthen international peace. Complementarity was one of the main features of the Rome Statute. It implied that the ICC would intervene only if state authorities failed to do so because they were unwilling or unable to prosecute a crime.

on their territory or a crime committed by one of their nationals. The ICC did not replace the criminal jurisdiction of States, nor did it constitute an authority for remedies which would permit the challenge of decisions handed down by a national authority. As had been recognised in the past, its purpose was to fill certain gaps. The ICC recognised the primacy of national justice, and fully respected state sovereignty.

The creation of tribunals by the United Nations Security Council had of necessity been done in response to political criteria, which had led to the risk of selectivity, while the ICC was an independent institution that relied exclusively on the will of States parties, and was guided solely by legal criteria, not political considerations.

The Rome Statute also had a converse side. The Court could exercise its jurisdiction only in the case of crimes that were committed on the territory of a State party or by a national of a State party. The Court could not claim universality unless the number of States parties increased in the years to come. The Swiss delegation urged all States that had not yet done so to seriously contemplate acceding to the Rome Statute.

Mrs S MAHAJAN (India) said that it was a matter of deep concern that on many occasions, the perpetrators of the most heinous crimes escaped accountability and punishment. Such impunity posed a threat to human rights and denied victims the right to effective legal remedy and compensation. Timely sentencing of perpetrators and their accomplices, and ending impunity for grave human rights violations were central elements in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system, since justice was an important form of reparation for many victims.

She hoped that the amendments submitted by her delegation would be positively considered. Without a doubt, the high incidence of human rights abuses had raised global awareness of the need to punish persons responsible for horrific crimes that violated human rights and humanitarian law, but there was still a great deal to be achieved. Many States were quite reluctant to exercise their jurisdiction or to cooperate with other States that were willing to prosecute individuals responsible for grave violations of international law. Moreover, some governments lacked the political will to prosecute their own citizens, particularly in cases where the accused persons enjoyed significant popular support.

A number of instruments had been signed over the years to empower the international community to fight against war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism. Not only were those crimes punishable under the Indian Penal Code and other laws, but the international conventions on those crimes had also been implemented through appropriate domestic legislation. India was party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. In the area of international terrorism, it was also party to the 12 United Nations conventions against terrorism, and had implemented all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions at the domestic level.

The IPU report and draft resolution appeared to portray the role of the ICC as the prime instrument in the hands of the international community in its fight against crimes violating human rights and humanitarian law. India had not acceded to the Rome Statute because its Government had found certain flaws in the Statute, and it had expressed serious reservations at the time the Statute had been adopted. Parliaments should ensure that war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism were made punishable under domestic law, and that impunity could not be granted to persons guilty of those crimes. If that principle were respected in letter and spirit, the most fundamental purpose behind the establishment of an international court would be achieved, and it would not matter whether a State was a party to the Statute or not.

As far as the role of parliaments was concerned, parliaments were the organs having prime responsibility for domestic legislation on the delivery of justice in the national context. They also played a role in the ratification of intergovernmental agreements and conventions. The international community could seek to establish a scope for effective partnership between parliaments and other relevant international bodies, and identify a supportive role for parliaments in the implementation of mechanisms for the prosecution and judgement of war crimes and other related offences. Parliaments should also be encouraged to bridge the gap in domestic laws that could lead to impunity.

Mr T HADJIGEORGIOU (Cyprus) said that the international community should ask itself why it allowed the perpetrators of war

crimes, genocide and terrorist acts to operate with impunity. The establishment of the ICC had been an important step towards the punishment of crimes. Governments and parliaments owed it to mankind to adopt all necessary measures, including legislation, to enable the Court to function effectively. It was also of the utmost importance for States to cease concluding bilateral agreements, which undermined the Court. In short, no citizen of any country, however powerful, should stand above the collective rights of the people of the world.

Crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism persisted despite the presence of pertinent international institutions and instruments because there was a conspicuous lack of political will to place respect for international law, including humanitarian law, above narrowly perceived national interests. That was the case particularly among those who held the reins of power in today's unjust world. It was an issue of paramount importance that must be addressed by international institutions, governments and parliaments.

Mr R CARDENAS (Mexico) noted that several delegates had touched on the subject of whether the word "terrorism" should be included in the text of the report and draft resolution. The IPU had directly or indirectly taken up the subject of terrorism in previous Assemblies, but his delegation did not think the present text was the best formulation on terrorism so far. The Committee had previously drafted many documents on the subject that were far superior. The topic of terrorism and the role of parliaments was far too important to be treated in the manner in which it had been handled in the current document. It would be preferable to restrict the draft resolution to the topics governed by the ICC and all the contents of legal instruments that had already been approved.

If terrorism was to be discussed, it was not enough simply to condemn or repudiate terrorist acts, or to state the need to pass national legislation for States to fight terrorism. It would be most meaningful to go further, and to address how parliaments should be empowered and strengthened to prevent the fight against terrorism, or the pretext of the fight against terrorism, from impinging on civil and political rights or jeopardising democratic systems. In strongly condemning terrorism through the adoption of appropriate legislation, parliaments should also reinforce those efforts by imposing civil control over intelligence

agencies and military forces. The role of parliaments went far beyond the boundaries set out in the draft resolution. For that reason, the Mexican delegation believed that the topic of terrorism should not be included in the draft resolution.

The Mexican Government helped to extend the scope of nuclear-weapons-free zones as a basic tool for non-proliferation and as a guarantee to the international community of its commitment to combat the arms race and the threat of nuclear warfare. The creation of nuclear-weapons-free zones was a step towards the achievement of the shared objective of a world free from nuclear weapons. He called for the support of parliamentarians and the participation of governments in a conference of States parties and signatories of the agreements on nuclear-weapons-free zones, scheduled to be held in Tlatelolco, Mexico, from 26 to 28 April 2005. The conference would serve as a preparation for the examination of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, to be held in New York in May. Global counter-terrorism efforts must once and for all eliminate nuclear weapons, especially given the risk of even greater devastation if such weapons were to fall into the hands of terrorists.

Mr E KOURULA (International Criminal Court) thanked the Committee for providing the opportunity for the ICC to participate in the debate, which had been extremely useful and encouraging. He said he would be pleased to share the views expressed by delegates with his colleagues upon his return to the Court.

With reference to the statement by the representative from the United Kingdom, he said that the judges could indeed perceive the external pressure, and were most anxious to start working on the substantive aspects of the cases. He was grateful for the acknowledgement that the preparation of cases and investigations often took more time than expected.

The PRESIDENT, noting that the list of speakers had been exhausted, called upon the co-Rapporteur to comment on the discussion.

Mr J ARGÜELLO (Argentina) co-Rapporteur said that it was clear that the Committee had held an extremely fruitful exchange of views, and judging from the intensity of the debate, the previous Assembly had been quite correct in its choice of topic. Already in the months preceding the Assembly,

much interest had been displayed by the membership of the Committee

He shared the concerns expressed by the representative from Mexico. All participants were aware that it was sometimes difficult to progress and to take firm action to pursue and punish terrorism because it was classified on the international agenda as a new threat. For example, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism had been ratified by 119 States, yet there was still no unanimously agreed definition of the scope of terrorism in all its aspects and connotations.

He believed that the Committee had made substantial progress in the discussion, and one conclusion that could be drawn was that all States that had not yet ratified the Statute should do so. There had also been vigorous rejection of the notion of bilateral agreements that conferred immunity to the citizens of some countries. It was clear that progress should be pursued while awaiting the conclusion of an international convention on terrorism and a clear definition of the term.

In closing, he paid tribute to the vital role of the ICC, and acknowledged that the

functioning of the Court would remain at the core of the Committee's future efforts.

#### **Appointment of a drafting committee**

The PRESIDENT said that the regional groups had nominated the following countries to be represented on the drafting committee: Benin, Chile, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Morocco, Russian Federation, Sudan, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Venezuela. The co-Rapporteur and the representative of the ICC were invited to attend in an advisory capacity.

*It was so agreed.*

The PRESIDENT announced that the drafting committee would convene immediately following the current sitting. The Bureau would meet on Wednesday, 6 April, to examine proposals to the plenary session regarding the work of the Committee for the next Assembly. The Committee would meet again in plenary after the Meeting of the Bureau.

*The sitting rose at 5 50 p m.*

**Sitting of Wednesday, 6 April**

(Afternoon)

*The President of the Committee, Mr E Menem (Argentina), opened the meeting at 3 50 p m*

**Presentation and adoption  
of the draft resolution  
(C-I/112/DR-cr)**

The PRESIDENT invited the rapporteur of the drafting Committee to present the report of the deliberations on the draft resolution

Mr J GARCIA JARPA (Venezuela), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the text before the Committee was the result of a lengthy round of fruitful and lively discussions on the proposals submitted by Member Parliaments Under the excellent leadership of Lord Morris of Aberavon, the draft had been accepted by consensus, in a spirit of compromise and solidarity

The original title had been retained after much debate, which had focused heavily on whether the word "terrorism" should be included It was evident that the meaning of terrorism was not clear within the context, and there was some doubt as to whether it referred to individual acts, crimes committed by sects or States, or other forms of terrorism It had therefore been agreed that the concept deserved further discussion at the international level, and that States would eventually formulate a clear definition of the word, which, for the time being, elicited strong and opposing views

He read out the text of the final version of the draft resolution, which contained a preamble of 15 paragraphs and 19 operative paragraphs He was pleased to present the draft resolution for consideration and adoption, and sincerely hoped that it would receive the full support of the First Standing Committee

The PRESIDENT invited the President of the drafting committee to comment on the work of the drafting committee

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom), *President of the drafting committee*, said that the drafting committee had examined about 126 proposed amendments There were a number of contentious issues, but excellent arguments had been put forward by all sides,

and he believed that ultimately the members had drawn on the wealth of their experience as seasoned politicians and had accepted decisions on individual amendments with good grace He wholeheartedly thanked the rapporteur and other members of the drafting committee for the high level of the work produced and for the patience and forbearance they had displayed during the deliberations

The PRESIDENT invited the members of the Committee to comment on the final version of the draft resolution, reminding them that it would not be possible to reopen the debate on substance, and that no new amendments could be made to the draft It was, however, still possible to propose sub-amendments

Mrs S MAHAJAN (India) congratulated the drafting committee on its excellent work in reconciling the numerous amendments proposed by Members and in producing a balanced text The draft resolution highlighted the significant and critical role of parliaments in enacting necessary legislation in the prevention and punishment of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and in the avoidance of impunity

She wished to propose two minor changes to the text in order to make it consistent with the title of the document, and with the intention to include references to terrorism in various paragraphs In the third line of the first preambular paragraph, she suggested the removal of the oblique sign and the word "or" in "and/or", so that the text would read "genocide and terrorism"

In the operative paragraph 1, she suggested that the word "and" should be deleted before the word "genocide", and that a comma should be inserted before "genocide" In addition, the words "and terrorism" should be added after "genocide" The paragraph would therefore end with the words "humanity, genocide and terrorism"

Mr A DESTEXHE (Belgium), referring to the fifth preambular paragraph, asked for clarification on the applicability of statutory limitations He said that it had been his impression that crimes against humanity and genocide had no statutory limitations On the other hand, he believed that war crimes and

crimes related to terrorism were not treated in the same way, in legal terms, and were in fact subject to statutory limitations

Ms K ANDERSEN (Norway) said that her delegation could not support the amendments proposed by the representative from India, and would prefer the text of the draft resolution to remain as it was. The Norwegian delegation fully supported the strengthening of the operative paragraphs that the condemned abhorrent acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and terrorism. Her delegation was pleased that a paragraph referring to the need to strengthen capacity-building had been incorporated in the text, since capacity-building would enable national courts to effectively prosecute perpetrators. Furthermore, the Norwegian delegation welcomed the call for Member Parliaments to reject bilateral agreements that would provide immunity from investigation and prosecution of crimes.

In view of the debate that had taken place, the Norwegian delegation endorsed the draft resolution, and was satisfied with the modifications which had been made with respect to the difference between terrorism and other criminal acts.

Mr R V MONGBE (Benin) speaking in his capacity as a member of the drafting committee, confirmed that the statement by the representative from Belgium to the effect that statutory limitations applied to war crimes and terrorism was correct. On the contrary, crimes against humanity and genocide had no statutory limitations, and he proposed that the draft resolution should be amended to reflect that distinction.

In response to the proposals made by the Indian delegation, he said the drafting committee had deliberately used the formulation "and/or" in the first preambular paragraph because genocide could be accompanied or preceded by terrorism, or vice versa, in the same way that crimes against humanity could occur in conjunction with terrorism. The title had been left intact, but it had not been felt that the content of the paragraphs had to be identical to the title.

Mr J GARCIA JARPA (Venezuela), *rappporteur of the drafting committee*, said that in the absence of a consensus on the changes proposed by India, he believed there were no grounds on which to correct the text.

Turning to the fifth preambular paragraph and the question of statutory limitations, he said the drafting committee had had the benefit of the presence of the judge from the ICC, Mr Kourula, during the deliberations on the draft resolution, and that his opinion had coincided with that of the representative from Benin.

Lord MORRIS OF ABERAVON (United Kingdom), *President of the drafting committee*, endorsed the views expressed by the rapporteur. The drafting committee had held long discussions on separating terrorism from the other crimes, because terrorism was not within the remit of the ICC. Strong views had been expressed to the effect that there should be no possibility for the Committee to be perceived as being lenient on terrorism, although there was a distinction between the respective competence of bodies to deal with it. The general feeling was equally strong. Therefore, it was decided to adopt the present formulation.

As for the issue raised in the fifth preambular paragraph, he said that in general, statutory limitations were not applicable, but there had been concern, as recognised in the eighth preambular paragraph, that the jurisdiction of the ICC was limited to 1 July 2002, and there was also a recognition of the need for mechanisms to address war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed before that date.

The fifth preambular paragraph began with "*Considering*", which was language indicating that the paragraph was not an operative paragraph. He said that the fifth and eighth preambular paragraphs taken together gave an accurate view of the situation. In any event, he was sure that the representative from the ICC would have drawn the attention of the drafting committee to any errors in matters of fact, had there been any.

The PRESIDENT gathered that the doubts that had been raised had been clarified. In his opinion, it was a good draft resolution, and while there would always be room for the further improvement of texts, he believed the document should be considered for adoption by consensus. There was indeed general agreement, in essence, that there should be no impunity for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism.

He therefore proposed that the draft resolution should be placed in its entirety.

before the Committee for adoption by consensus

*The draft resolution was adopted by consensus*

Mr M HALAIQAH (Jordan) commended the work of the drafting committee on the draft resolution. However, he said that he unfortunately felt compelled to respond to the provocative statement made by the representative from Israel at an earlier sitting of the Committee. The Government of Jordan had maintained the firm position of condemning terrorism and terrorist acts against civilians and property in the strongest possible terms. With regard to Jordan's role in the West Bank, he took offence to a suggestion made by the representative from Israel that Jordan might be occupying or ruling over the West Bank. He clarified that following the 1948 war, the Palestinian people had freely chosen to join Jordan in order to avoid the complete absorption of Palestine by Israeli forces.

Reiterating his condemnation of terror, the representative from Jordan challenged the impression created by the delegate from Israel with respect to the operations led by Palestinians against the Israeli people, by underscoring the fact that Israelis had carried out countless operations claiming the lives of untold numbers of Palestinians. The conflict in the region was a threat to regional and world peace, yet the core issue of Israeli occupation, although neglected by Israel, was difficult to ignore.

The PRESIDENT reminded the representative from Jordan that, as parliamentarians, they were all aware that speakers should limit their comments to the specific subject under discussion. The Committee was in the process of discussing the draft resolution that had been adopted. He was obliged to point out, however, that it was not possible to reopen discussion of the subject raised by the representative from Jordan at that stage.

Mr P MARTIN-LALANDE (France), referring to the issues raised by the representatives from Belgium and Benin on the applicability of statutory limitations, cited Article 5 of the Rome Statute, which listed the crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court, and Article 29 of the Statute, which stated that crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the Court were not subject to any statute of limitations. It could

therefore be concluded that the Statute did not grant statutory limitations to those crimes, as set forth in the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity of 26 November 1968.

Mr A DESTEXHE (Belgium) said that by approving the draft resolution, the Committee had in effect expressed support for the Rome Statute and for cooperation with the ICC. He drew attention to the fact that eight of the eleven members of the drafting committee were from countries that had not ratified the Rome Statute. He took it as a positive indication that perhaps before the 2006 Assembly a large number of those countries would have done so.

Mr M CHORFI (Algeria) recalled that his Government had attached great importance to national reconciliation, and had adopted legislation to that effect. He fully supported the call for international negotiations on a precise definition of terrorism as a basis for establishing clarity on the matter.

Mr C AOER (Indonesia) said that although his delegation agreed with the content of the draft resolution in general, he wished to reiterate that the ICC did not conduct preventive efforts, nor did it have competence to try cases of terrorism. Furthermore, the competence of the ICC should not supersede the jurisdiction of national courts.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Committee should nominate and appoint a rapporteur to present the draft resolution to the plenary of the Assembly.

Mr A MOUSSALLI (Syrian Arab Republic) suggested that the rapporteur of the drafting committee, Mr J Garcia Jarpa, should serve as the rapporteur to the Assembly.

*It was so decided.*

### **Preparation of the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

#### **(a) Proposal for a subject item to be considered by the Committee**

The PRESIDENT informed the Committee that the Bureau of the Standing Committee had examined various proposals submitted by Member Parliaments. The subject chosen, *The role of parliaments in strengthening control of*

*trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their munitions*, had been proposed by Mr F-X de Donnea (Belgium) If the topic was accepted, Mr de Donnea would act as a co-Rapporteur at the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly He took it, in the absence of objections, that it would be so agreed

*It was so decided*

#### **(b) Proposals for a co-Rapporteur**

The PRESIDENT invited nominations for a candidate to work with Mr de Donnea in the capacity of co-Rapporteur He pointed out that under the Rules it was desirable that the candidate should be from a developing country, and preferably female

Mr G K B GBEDIAME (Ghana) proposed Mrs R Oniang'o (Kenya) as the second co-Rapporteur

*It was so decided*

#### **Election of the Bureau of the First Standing Committee**

The PRESIDENT recalled that in accordance with the Rules of the Standing Committees the current members of the Bureau, elected at the 108<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly, were all eligible for re-election The Committee had been informed that the regional groups had made their selections

The Arab Group had nominated Mr G Noumeir (Syrian Arab Republic) as a Vice-President, to replace Ms H Al-Homsi (Syrian Arab Republic) The Eurasian Group had nominated Mr B-Z Zhambalnimbuev (Russian Federation) as titular Vice-President, and Mr R Iskuzhin (Russian Federation) as the substitute The Twelve-Plus Group had

nominated Lord Morris of Aberavon (United Kingdom) as the titular Vice-President, and Mr R Podgorean (Romania) as substitute

He also recalled that at the 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Santiago de Chile, it had been agreed by the six geopolitical groups that at the 112<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Assembly the geopolitical group holding the presidency would fill the post of the First Vice-President, and the geopolitical group holding the first vice-presidency would fill the post of President He therefore took it that the Committee agreed that Mr G Noumeir (Syrian Arab Republic) would be elected as President of the Standing Committee

*It was so agreed*

*All the Vice-Presidents of the Committee were thereafter elected by acclamation*

Mr G NOUMEIR (Syrian Arab Republic) thanked the Committee for the trust placed in him to serve as President of the First Standing Committee He praised the excellent work and leadership of the current President, Mr Menem, and said he was confident that he would benefit greatly from the wealth of Mr Menem's experience

He looked forward to a constructive and effective partnership with the Committee in promoting freedom worldwide through parliamentary involvement

The PRESIDENT assured Mr Noumeir of his cooperation, and took the opportunity to thank the Member Parliaments and the officers of the Committee for their support and the high level of participation in the work of the First Standing Committee

*The sitting rose at 5 p m*

**The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

*Second Standing Committee – Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade*

**Sitting of Tuesday, 5 April**

(Morning)

*The President of the Committee, Mr E K Gudfinnsson (Iceland), opened the meeting at 9 25 a m*

The PRESIDENT said that the 111<sup>th</sup> Assembly had appointed two co-Rapporteurs for the item, Mr O Martínez of Cuba and Mr R. del Picchia of France. Unfortunately, Mr O Martínez had been hospitalised on the eve of the Assembly. On the Committee's behalf, he wished him a speedy recovery. The Steering Committee of the Assembly had discussed the situation, and in view of its exceptional nature, had agreed that Mr O. Martínez could be replaced in his function of co-Rapporteur by Mr J Crombet Hernández-Baquero. The initial version of the report had been made available to IPU Members for comments at the beginning of January 2005. Its revised version, which had been redistributed on 11 February 2005 and also placed on the Union's web site, was included in the delegates' sets of documents. The contents of the report remained the exclusive responsibility of the two co-Rapporteurs.

The co-Rapporteurs had also prepared a preliminary draft resolution on the item under discussion. As was the case with the report, the draft resolution had been distributed to IPU Members at the beginning of January. On 11 February, the Secretariat had published a revised version of the draft resolution, taking stock of comments and observations received by that date. Following that, all Members had had the opportunity to submit amendments to the revised draft by the statutory deadline of 28 March 2005.

Twenty-three Members had submitted their amendments by the official deadline. The texts of their original submissions were available for consultation in the IPU Secretariat. Document C-II/112/Dr-am contained an aggregate table of proposed amendments. The deadline having passed seven days before the start of the Assembly, amendments were no

longer admissible. However, sub-amendments could still be proposed until the draft resolution was adopted by the Standing Committee.

The Union's governing bodies had requested that everything be done to ensure that the Committee's debate would be as interactive as possible. That meant *inter alia* that the reading out of previously prepared speeches was strongly discouraged.

**Adoption of the agenda**

(C-II/112/C)

*The agenda was adopted*

**Approval of the summary records of the session held in Geneva on 29 and 30 September 2004**

The PRESIDENT said that the Summary Records of the Committee's session held in Geneva on 29 and 30 September 2004 had been circulated by the IPU Secretariat to all Members of the Union as part of the overall Summary Records of the Proceedings of the 111<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly. In the absence of remarks or questions concerning the distributed text, he declared the Summary Records approved.

*It was so agreed*

**Presentation of the report and draft resolution of the co-Rapporteurs**

(C-II/112/R rev, C-II/112/DR-rev and C-II/112/DR-am)

The PRESIDENT asked the co-Rapporteurs, Mr R. del Picchia (France) and Mr J. Crombet Hernández-Baquero (Cuba), to present the report on the item and the draft resolution.

Mr R. DEL PICCHIA (France), *co-Rapporteur*, recalled that at the United Nations Millennium Assembly, held in New

York in September 2000, world leaders had pledged to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 in order to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment. The reports referred to in Section B of the report, among which should be included *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals* by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Head of the UN Millennium Project, made it clear that as things stood, and in spite of the progress made, the goals would not be achieved, mainly because of shortfalls in the development financing system. The three usual sources of development financing - official development assistance (ODA), loans and economic growth, particularly through international trade - were inadequate to achieve the MDGs, for the following reasons: the failure of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, with a few exceptions, to honour their 30-year old commitment to donate 0.7 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to ODA; the difficulties posed by debt servicing for poor and certain middle-income countries; the lack of progress made by the World Trade Organization (WTO) towards establishing a fairer trading system, particularly in agricultural products; the inability to effectively incorporate ODA into national strategies, reform national institutions, and enhance parliamentary democracy and the concept of civil society; the failure to promote human rights and good governance and combat corruption; and the lack of effective economic and social policies in order to stimulate economic growth.

Despite the fact that the Sachs report saw the role of parliaments solely in terms of promoting good governance and the rule of law, in his own view, parliamentarians could do much to help achieve the MDGs, *inter alia* through the development of innovative financing mechanisms. Indeed, it was crucial to gain their support, since the basis of all democratic regimes was the acceptance of taxation by freely elected representatives of the people. There could be no taxation without representation.

Although Section B of the report focused on taxation, it also mentioned possible alternatives, such as the International Finance Facility devised by the Government of the United Kingdom, improvements in the effectiveness of existing development assistance mechanisms, debt cancellation and the promotion of international trade.

The report was divided into two sections, to reflect the different approaches of the two co-Rapporteurs. However, the aim in each case had been the same: to eradicate poverty and promote solidarity among all people in order to achieve the MDGs by 2015. He thanked delegates for their proposals for the amendment of the draft resolution and explained that the dual format of the report had made it impossible to include them all. The document containing the proposals for amendments (C-II/112/DR-am) already ran to 21 pages and would present a considerable challenge for the drafting committee.

Mr J. CROMBET HERNANDEZ-BAQUERO (Cuba), *substituting for the co-Rapporteur*, said that addressing the problem of debt and achieving the MDGs represented one of the most important challenges facing parliaments. The last two decades had witnessed a deterioration in the global economic situation as a result of the implementation of neoliberal economic policies. The debt relief proposals advanced by the creditor countries were no more than mild palliatives for one of the most serious problems affecting 85 per cent of humankind. In 2003, the developed economies - with only 15.4 per cent of the world's population - accounted for 55.5 per cent of the global GDP and 74.6 per cent of international trade. The underdeveloped countries - home to 84.6 per cent of the world's population - accounted for 44.5 per cent of the world's GDP and 25.4 per cent of international trade. According to the figures for 2003, the external debt of the underdeveloped countries stood at US\$ 2.6 trillion. The role of parliaments should be to conduct a detailed analysis of the underlying causes of the problem and the different solutions that had already been applied, and to assess the current status of the phenomenon. The findings of a number of United Nations conferences on poverty and development, and the evidence of the situation on the ground, highlighted the need to strengthen both the role of national parliaments and inter-parliamentary cooperation to ensure that international trade and investment activities were genuinely fair, and that poor countries were not excluded from the globalisation process. It was a matter of grave concern that 1.2 billion people survived on less than US\$ 1 per day, and more than 2.8 billion people on less than US\$ 2 per day. In order to ensure sustainable human development, parliamentarians should strive to promote their governments' compliance with current

international commitments, and give their support to innovative strategies and mechanisms

The fact that the report was in two sections was a reflection of the challenges that both developed and developing countries faced in finding solutions to the problems. He thanked all the countries that had submitted proposals for the amendment of the draft resolution, and emphasised the need for cooperation in the future.

### Debate

Mr F ABULGAHNAM (Jordan) said that the report highlighted the extent of the gap between the rich and poor countries and the dangers inherent in such a situation, as well as the link between a healthy environment and sustainable development. The problem of indebtedness was particularly severe in parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, where a large percentage of the GDP of some countries was earmarked for debt servicing and was therefore not available to meet their people's needs in terms of food security, education and health services. The vast sums spent on military equipment could not be viewed in isolation from the desperate plight of certain African countries that were engaged in a futile struggle to combat the ravages of hunger and disease. Parliamentarians should bring pressure to bear on the creditor countries to convince them of the need to either reschedule or cancel third-world debt, because if they failed to do so many indebted countries would never be able to break out of the vicious circle of indebtedness. The measures that had been taken in the past, though welcome, were not enough.

Mr L TITO (Angola) said that the goal of all countries should be the implementation of fair and sustainable economic development programmes that would allow their citizens to meet their basic needs. But without the requisite political and financial means, national administrations were unable to carry out their responsibilities. For many countries, external sources of funding, with their complex repayment mechanisms, had become an increasing burden, to the point where current levels of indebtedness were a barrier to equitable development and wealth generation. A development model that was fair and environmentally sustainable, and which would not be affected by financial market fluctuations or credit conditions imposed by the

international financial institutions, was required as a matter of urgency.

Angola was being unfairly penalised by the imposition of international financial mechanisms as it tried to rebuild its economy and create decent living conditions for its citizens after decades of war. The failure to organise a donor's conference to consider ways of providing Angola with the resources it needed was having an increasingly negative impact on people's lives. In actual fact, debt repayment by developing countries had turned out to be a new way of transferring or repatriating capital to the developed countries and of prolonging the dependency of the poor countries on them. The exhortations of the developed countries regarding the promotion of human rights would have more meaning if they were backed up by concrete actions that guaranteed people's access to the basic essentials needed for a decent life. The imposition of conditions that exhausted countries' financial resources only impoverished the people and deprived them of their right to well-being.

World leaders had named the attainment of sustainable development as the main challenge for the millennium. But before such a goal could be achieved, a number of preliminary steps needed to be taken: world trade should become fairer and more transparent, basic public services should be guaranteed, the misappropriation of public finances should be prevented, and the General Agreement on Trade in Services should be implemented promptly.

Mr M ABU EL INEEN (Egypt) said that faced with the unacceptable levels of poverty outlined in the report, parliamentarians had a duty to identify and take steps to implement the necessary reforms. With regard to the introduction of a new financial mechanism, it might be advisable for countries to establish parliamentary committees to oversee its operation and ensure its transparency. Such committees could also be given the task of evaluating future proposals by the World Bank and IMF. Disputes between debtor and creditor countries might be more satisfactorily resolved if both sides had recourse to international legislation.

Mr D B GURUNG (Nepal) emphasised the potential contribution that parliaments could make in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms. Despite the fact that several IPU

resolutions underscored the role of parliaments in ensuring that their respective governments honoured their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA, it would require a considerable effort to ensure that the majority of countries complied with that commitment as a matter of priority so that the MDGs could be met within the agreed time frame.

He welcomed the idea of an instrument for international taxation. The poorest countries continued to be crippled by debt, despite a series of debt reduction strategies. At the end of 1996, the total external debt of the 42 most heavily indebted nations amounted to US\$ 245 billion. In most of those countries, the public debt exceeded their annual GDP, which, combined with low levels of development, seriously affected their repayment capacity. The major obstacle preventing poor countries from both meeting the MDGs and repaying their external debts was their limited access to financial resources. It was therefore essential to promote debt relief initiatives and to mobilise international funding in order to remove the structural weaknesses that underlaid economic and social inequality, and to establish conditions that were conducive to sustainable development.

Mr G MESBAHI MOGHADAM (Islamic Republic of Iran) noted that the report mentioned that there had been an overall improvement in the global economy. The recovery in world output and trade that had begun in 2003 and the acceleration of growth in 2005 were optimistically regarded as heralding a return of the performance experienced at the end of the 1990s, and a sign that the world economy might be entering an extended period of growth. However, the outlook for sustained recovery was more uncertain for developing countries. Globalisation, while offering new opportunities, posed serious challenges for them. At the same time, the gap between rich and poor countries and income inequalities within countries had been increasing. The use of debt financing to mobilise international resources for public and private investment, if not properly managed by both debtor and creditor countries, could turn into a long-term burden for indebted countries. Finding a lasting solution to external debt and debt servicing problems had been on the international community's agenda for some time. The sheer magnitude of the problem clearly indicated that the existing international initiatives still had serious shortcomings.

Despite a 2 per cent fall in the debt-export ratio and interest payment-export ratio for all countries in 2002, by 2003 the total external debt of indebted developing countries and countries with economies in transition had risen to US\$ 2.6 trillion, which had been followed by a further 4 per cent rise in 2003. Given the facts and past experience, any comprehensive new debt initiative would need to address the debt problems of all developing countries in a multidimensional manner, inter alia through, the provision of bilateral and multilateral debt relief measures for maintaining debt sustainability, the mobilisation of international financing for development through direct foreign investment, the integration of developing countries in the international trading system, improved market access and the facilitation of financial flows to such countries.

Mr A AL-AWADI (Kuwait) said that the current figures for the distribution of global wealth and share of trade between developed and developing countries were lamentable. It was unacceptable that between 1982 and 2004 the underdeveloped countries should have paid a total of US\$ 5.4 trillion in debt service; between 1990 and 2003 alone their payments had amounted to US\$ 4.1 trillion – an average of US\$ 296 billion per year. It was time for parliamentarians to take the lead in finding solutions to the problem of indebtedness and underdevelopment before the situation deteriorated further. Moreover, international security would continue to be threatened so long as the citizens of the most heavily indebted countries were denied all hope of a decent life. He called for the full implementation of the relevant United Nations resolutions, and, in particular, for all the countries concerned to fulfil their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA. Over the past 10 years, Kuwait had contributed 3.5 per cent of its GDP to development projects. His country was also committed to relieving the debt burden of developing countries, and had pledged to write off US\$ 40 billion of debt.

Mrs L TONISSON (Estonia) observed that the recent disaster in South-East Asia, which had directly affected thousands of people all over the world, had demonstrated the effectiveness of cooperation and mutual understanding among nations in providing practical assistance. The international community must strive to reach agreement on the steps to be taken to meet development

targets in a sustainable manner. Globalisation would become more widely acceptable when countries were willing to justify their decisions publicly.

Although the standard of living in Estonia was still below the European Union average, the Estonian Government was willing to increase the assistance it provided to developing countries in an effort to attain the MDGs. The Government of Estonia also made contributions under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative, even though it was not officially a creditor country. In practice, long-lasting results would be achievable only through better cooperation and coordination between donor and recipient countries and between the recipient countries themselves. While some developing countries might support the introduction of a global tax as a source of additional revenue, the delegation of Estonia believed that aid should be given voluntarily, and not raised through compulsory taxation. The delegation must therefore give the matter further consideration before coming to a decision.

Mrs LIM BEE KAU (Malaysia) underscored the close linkage and mutually reinforcing relationship between economic growth and development on the one hand and international peace and security on the other. The globalisation process had amplified the need for closer international cooperation, including between developed and developing countries, both in raising funds to finance development and in using them more effectively in order to achieve the MDGs. The main challenge was to examine and review the institutional and systemic framework within which the global markets functioned. The urgent need for coherence between international trade, finance and monetary systems also needed to be addressed.

The difficulties facing many developing countries were exacerbated by severe fiscal constraints, and additional demands were likely to increase the pressure. While the immediate task was to mobilise resources to accelerate progress towards attainment of the MDGs, it was vital to devise a strategy that would be conducive to economic development and would ensure a predictable flow of aid in the long run. It would be unproductive if small gains in innovative and additional sources of funding were to be negated by larger losses resulting inter alia from systemic instability in the international financial system, deteriorating terms of trade, falling commodity prices and

lack of market access for developing countries' exports. But even if the MDGs were to be universally attained by 2015 and poverty reduced by half, that would only amount to a partial achievement of the overall task. A stable macroeconomic framework and sound economic policies were prerequisites for sustained growth. For developing countries, rapid economic growth to reduce poverty and raise living standards could be achieved only through policies that would reduce crises and make their economies more resilient. The development record of the past 60 years had shown that the main drivers of economic growth were entrepreneurship, investment and innovation by private and public institutions on the one hand, and the right environment in terms of openness to trade, good governance and institutions, strong financial markets, the availability of key physical infrastructures, enhanced market access, equitable rules, and well targeted, sustainably-financed technical-assistance and capacity-building programmes on the other. The promotion of free and open trade had always been the key element in economic development and poverty reduction. The solution lay not in creating more mechanisms or institutions, but in ensuring long-term and predictable sources of financing for existing programmes.

Mrs V SONGWE (World Bank) pointed out that the World Bank was the single largest external provider of funding for development programmes and projects to improve health and education. The current debate was timely in view of the fact that 2005 had been designated as the "Year of Development". The fight against poverty had been moved to the top of the international policy agenda and would be the main focus of attention under the United Kingdom's presidency of the G8 Summit. Development would be the central issue both at the G8 Summit, to be held in Scotland in July 2005, and at the United Nations high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to be held in New York in September 2005.

Parliamentarians would be instrumental in achieving the MDGs and combating poverty as representatives of the people, lawmakers and budget decision-makers, and also as they would remind governments of their international commitments and accountability. The *Global Monitoring Report 2005 From Consensus to Momentum*, recently issued by the IMF and World Bank, noted with concern

that if present trends continued, many developing countries – and the whole of sub-Saharan Africa – would fail to meet the MDGs within the agreed time frame. Progress had been uneven; the goals would be achieved at the global level, but many countries in Africa, South-East Asia and Latin America would fall well short of the targets. Strong economic growth was essential to achieving the MDGs. Hence, many countries would need to almost double their growth rate to an average of approximately 7 per cent over the next decade. In addition, there would need to be a substantial increase in ODA – to at least double the present figure – and also in its effectiveness. Furthermore, it was essential to create a level playing field for trade. High protection for labour-intensive goods, such as textiles and farm products, meant that the world's poor faced tariffs that were on average effectively more than twice as high as those imposed on others.

The World Bank strongly supported debt relief, but recognised that to be effective, it had to be combined with specifically tailored actions, increased aid and a fairer trading system. In turn, the developing countries needed to introduce more disciplined financial systems, improve macroeconomic conditions and create a better investment climate to attract more effective aid. Debt relief savings should be earmarked for anti-poverty programmes, with the development priorities being set by developing countries themselves, and not by donors. The HIPC Initiative had worked well, but more needed to be done. Twenty-seven countries were receiving debt relief that would amount to about US\$ 55 billion, and poverty reducing measures in 27 countries had, on average, increased from 6.4 per cent of GDP in 1999 to 8.5 per cent in 2004. Poverty reducing expenditures were expected to increase in all those countries that were making steady progress in implementing their poverty reduction strategies and were on track with their economic reform programmes.

The World Bank welcomed the growing concern of parliamentarians over development issues, and was eager to continue its dialogue, through the IPU, with other parliamentary organisations and national parliaments. For example, the United Kingdom Parliament had an effective all-party group on HIPC issues; and at a recent meeting organised by the World Bank and the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank, 35 parliamentary leaders from donor countries had previewed the 2005 development agenda and had agreed to

set up a parliamentary implementation watch on the G8 countries to remind their leaders of their development pledges.

Mrs G N ERBATUR (Turkey) observed that combating poverty was the single biggest challenge facing the world, and pinpointed the worsening of foreign debt as a major contributory factor in the developing countries. Many speakers had referred to the need for poor countries to participate in policy-making on poverty alleviation. However, it was also important that women, as representatives of their families and communities, should be included in the process as well. She therefore called for an end to all violence against women, and a substantial improvement in their access to educational opportunities, health care and the labour market as crucial first steps to achieving that end. To create a better and more prosperous world for present and future generations, the international community must strengthen its commitments under the MDGs, particularly with respect to the heavily indebted countries. In that context, it was critical for governments to respect their commitments to increase ODA and to ensure the active participation of poor countries in the world economy and trade.

Her delegation believed that existing global economic, financial and social structures could be strengthened through new mechanisms that would increase coordination and coherence. Improved cooperation between national parliaments could also help to mitigate the negative effects of globalisation. It was time to adopt a broader approach to the external debt issue – one that encompassed both debt relief and the mobilisation of funds to alleviate the debt burden.

The process that had been launched at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002 required the involvement of parliaments to ensure that the commitments made were respected. If the aim of international trade negotiations was to foster high levels of growth across the global economy, the parliaments of the developed countries must assume responsibility for ensuring the adoption of the necessary regulatory measures to eliminate all trade barriers.

Mr H -J FUCHTEL (Germany) said that the report ably demonstrated the complexity of the issues under discussion. The fact that the goal of halving the number of people living in absolute poverty by 2015 seemed likely to be

achieved was a cause for some optimism. Progress was also being made in cancelling the unsustainable debt burdens of highly indebted countries. It had been estimated that an increase in foreign aid of US\$ 50 billion per year would be required to achieve the MDGs. At the same time, the quality of the aid and manner in which it was managed would need to be improved to ensure that it would be used more effectively. When governments raised credit and allocated financial resources, it was crucial to ensure that they did so strictly within the framework of the budget, and under the control of parliament. It had been an omission in the report not to advocate the establishment in every country of an independent budgetary authority that reported directly to the public. As a parliamentarian and, hence, the spokesperson for his country's taxpayers, he believed that the existence of a genuinely independent institution would encourage people to contribute more willingly, particularly if they could see what had been achieved as a result of their contributions.

The PRESIDENT announced that 51 delegates in total had already asked for the floor, and he would therefore be closing the speakers' list.

*It was so agreed*

Mr ZHOU ZHENGQING (China) highlighted the direct link between the indebtedness of developing countries and an unfair international economic system. The international community, in particular the creditor countries, had a duty to provide substantial aid to the developing countries that was both commensurate with their needs and respectful of their independence, to help them to escape from the vicious circle of debt, and achieve economic development. The provision of development financing was largely the responsibility of governments, but the support of the whole international community was also crucial. It was incumbent on the developed countries to honour their commitments in terms of financial aid, technology transfers and debt relief, and also in creating fairer trading conditions. They must also endeavour to ensure the suitability, predictability and, to the extent possible, effective use of development assistance. He warned against the tendency to regard such aid as charity rather than compensation for the hardships caused by an unfair global trading system.

Any proposed innovative financing mechanisms must undergo a thorough risk assessment, taking into account the requirements of the Monterrey Consensus. At the same time, globalisation needed to be managed more efficiently by means of fair, rational and transparent international mechanisms governing trade, investment and finance, that would allow the needs of developing countries to be accommodated in future multilateral trade negotiations.

The Government of China attached great importance to the MDGs, and had introduced its own comprehensive development programme to ensure they were achieved.

Mr Y LARIQUI (Morocco) said that the Government of Morocco spent one third of its budget on debt service, thereby substantially reducing its capacity to invest in the sectors that were most urgently in need, namely regional development, social services, health and education. To date, debt relief initiatives taken by the developed countries had been inadequate to prevent an annual rise in the debt burden of the indebted countries. The aim of the HIPC Initiative had been to establish a sustainable level of debt for recipient countries rather than to provide them with an effective long-term aid and development strategy. The solutions envisaged had failed to take proper account of the effect of structural adjustment programmes, which had actually increased poverty in most indebted countries. Although the developed countries were aware of the problems, they were critical of a perceived tendency to exaggerate the impact of debt relief programmes on social and economic development. In practice, economic liberalisation had increased unemployment and insecurity, had had an adverse impact on the environment and public services, and had led to underinvestment and a redistribution of wealth in favour of the well-off. Even the credit institutions now acknowledged that debt relief was an essential step in enabling the indebted countries to undertake the activities needed to achieve economic and social development and channel their resources towards sustainable development. Without a fundamental change in the situation, any future initiatives taken by the rich countries to assist the indebted countries were doomed to failure.

Parliamentarians must strive to find effective solutions to the debt issue by bringing it to the urgent attention of all those concerned, including national governments. In so doing, they should focus on the need to simplify the

conditions which indebted countries had to fulfil in order to obtain debt relief and the need to introduce greater flexibility in structural adjustment programmes. In cases where the burden of debt forced heavily indebted countries into deep crises and social cohesion was threatened, the external debt should be cancelled.

Mr R KHAN (India) emphasised that the attainment of the MDGs would require a concerted effort by the global community that focused on the eradication of poverty. The delegation from India broadly agreed with the substance of the report and draft resolution, with the exception of the following operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, which it felt should be deleted: operative paragraph 3, because the actions it called on the parliaments of developing countries to carry out were covered by the MDGs, which many countries, including India, had incorporated in their national policies; operative paragraph 4, because the idea of monitoring progress on the implementation of the MDGs had so far failed to gain universal acceptance; operative paragraph 5, because the strategy for achieving the MDGs should be developed at the national level; operative paragraph 7, because it was unnecessary to have regional debates on MDG reports; operative paragraph 9, because its provisions, if implemented, would be tantamount to introducing conditionalities; and operative paragraph 10, because any extension of the HIPC Initiative to large or middle-income countries could lead to a reduction both in the resources available for ODA and in direct transfers to the targeted countries.

Mr I RAMADANI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that the provisions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Declaration adopted in 2000 at the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments had inspired and guided the activities of the parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and its delegation to the IPU. His country had already achieved some of the MDGs, for example those relating to primary education and gender equality in the educational field, and others were likely to be realised in the longer term.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had been assessed as a moderately indebted country. Because of its geographic location, its economic prosperity was dependent on having access to the best transit corridors under economically sustainable

conditions. It participated in the world economy through trade at the regional, European and global levels. In order to overcome the disadvantage of a small domestic market, its Government had concluded free trade agreements with all the south-east European countries and the member States of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). As part of the European Union Stabilization and Association process, it also enjoyed tax-free trade with the European Union countries and their 650 million consumers.

He supported financial transfers from the developed world to poor countries through ODA, provided the process involved negotiations between donors and beneficiaries to ensure that the resources were put to the most effective use.

Mr H AL-ALAWI (Saudi Arabia) said that as there was no clear definition of sustainable development in either the report or the draft resolution, it might be advisable to decide on one as a matter of priority. In his own view, sustainable development implied that everyone should have an economically and socially acceptable standard of living. It was unacceptable that one fifth of the world's population should have to live on US\$ 1 a day, whereas a mere 15.4 per cent accounted for 55.5 per cent of the global GDP and 74.6 per cent of international trade. To achieve sustainable development, parliaments worldwide had to ensure that the relevant international resolutions were acted on and that the requisite mechanisms and measures were implemented. In recent years, the Saudi Arabian Government had given US\$ 76 billion – 4 per cent of the country's GDP – in aid to the developing world, in particular to least developed countries (LDCs), and had cancelled the debts of several other developing countries, including some LDCs. It had also given emergency aid to countries that had been severely affected by natural disasters. The developed countries had a responsibility to implement appropriate financial and technical mechanisms to enable developing countries to raise the funds required to reactivate growth. He welcomed the agreement that had been reached by the Governors of the G7 Central Banks at their meeting in London in February 2005 to cancel approximately US\$ 80 billion of debt owed by the poorest countries to the IMF and World Bank and to consider the possibility of cancelling outright the debts of certain countries.

Mr F WALKER (Switzerland) noted that September 2005 would mark the fifth anniversary of the Millennium Summit. It was therefore time to take stock of the achievements and to assess the prospects for attaining the MDGs by 2015. It was evident that despite the efforts of the international community, financing for development was not yet on a secure footing. To acquire the funding needed to reduce poverty would require not only an increase in ODA, but also a decrease in the indebtedness of the poor countries. The Government of Switzerland had supported the HIPC Initiative since its inception, and although it had not been a panacea, there had been a reduction in the overall foreign debt, and some resources had been released for social development in the poor countries. Nevertheless, the indebtedness of the poor countries, particularly to the international financial institutions, continued to increase, in some cases to an unbearable level. In response, the IMF and the World Bank had developed a mechanism for preventing indebtedness, which differed from the HIPC Initiative in that it enabled countries to evaluate the "bearability" of their current debt before taking on new loans. The intention was to prevent the granting of further credit that could be repaid out of resources that were needed for development. That mechanism could also be used by other multilateral loan institutions. Some of the criteria that were used in evaluating the HIPC Initiative could also be applied to the new multilateral indebtedness initiatives proposed by the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States, such as the question of whether debt relief payments should come out of the aid budget or be additional to it, and the requirement that beneficiaries should have relatively stable institutions and good governance, and enjoy the confidence of the banks. The general view was that funding for development should be increased without delay. Current proposals for raising the necessary funding ranged from international taxes, such as the Tobin tax and environmental taxes, to the International Finance Facility devised by the Government of the United Kingdom. The role of parliamentarians should be to analyse the options, further the debate, establish international alliances, engage the public, and develop practicable, effective and sustainable action plans.

Mr S KATOH (Japan) said that if the MDGs were to be achieved it would first of all be necessary to create a more equitable trading

system and to develop the capacity of the countries concerned. To that end, the international community must devise and implement an innovative international financing mechanism and promote appropriate and targeted financial investment.

The casual disbursement of military spending in conflict regions was detrimental to security, and was a serious obstacle to the attainment of the MDGs. It was time to take concrete action to draw up an international convention restricting weapons and small firearms transactions, introducing a registration system for the transfer of conventional weapons, and institutionalising anti-war arrangements, such as a tax on weapons transactions. In anticipation of the United Nations high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, to be held in New York in September 2005, active support should be lent to ensuring that the intentions of the international community were given a far higher profile. The pattern of participation by non-governmental and other organisations should be developed in line with the Arria Formula and mechanisms recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Lastly, the damage to health caused by climate change and natural disasters was having a major impact on achievement of the MDGs and the availability of financial resources. The Earth Charter provided valuable guidelines for protecting our planet and its inhabitants.

Mr M EL-TIGANI (Sudan) congratulated the co-Rapporteurs on having openly acknowledged their different approaches to the subject item, which reflected the diverse viewpoints held by members of the international community. The subject of both the report and the draft resolution was of special interest to developing countries like the Sudan whose citizens suffered most acutely from the effects of poverty through no fault of their own. Parliamentarians in those countries faced enormous challenges in trying to create better living conditions for their people. Many of the countries were ecologically poor and lacked resources, with very low reserves of public finance at their disposal. The situation was exacerbated by the growing trade gap between developed and developing countries and the burden of debt servicing. He urged delegates to redouble their efforts to find solutions, bearing in mind that there must be a substantial increase in the amount of aid if

people were to begin to enjoy even a minimally decent living standard. Priority should be given to addressing the problem of debt servicing, and in the case of the most heavily indebted countries, to debt cancellation. Lastly, parliamentarians must put pressure on their governments to take the steps necessary to improve the competitiveness of developing countries in international markets. The current session could only claim to have been successful if it came up with workable solutions for dealing with poverty and indebtedness.

Mr K H SHIN (Republic of Korea) expressed his broad agreement with the report, and said that based on his country's experience the measures to assist developing countries outlined in it could play a vital role in reactivating their economic development. International aid, loans and technology transfers had all helped the Government of the Republic of Korea to finance its economic development policies. However, it was concerned that the introduction of an international tax could hamper the free flow of capital, impede direct foreign investment and limit the expansion of free market access. Hence, it would be necessary to carry out a thorough review before such a system was established.

The developed countries needed to increase the level of their assistance to developing countries to help them overcome their difficulties and attain the MDGs. In view of its own positive economic experience in the past, the Republic of Korea would be ready to participate in international efforts to assist developing countries through enhanced trade liberalisation and improved market access, increased ODA, and transference of its own economic know-how and expertise.

Mr I PALĂR (Romania) expressed his support for the innovative international financing and trading mechanisms identified in the report. Romania, as a prospective Member of the European Union, was planning to allocate more financial resources to international cooperation for development. The New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty, which Romania had supported, marked an important step towards the attainment of the MDGs. The Romanian Government shared the view that countries should assume primary responsibility for promoting sound policies, stable institutions and the optimal mobilisation of human resources, and that national policies should

drive the development process. Hence, the recent shift to country ownership of development programmes meant that the parliaments in developing countries needed increased assistance to enable them to enhance their institutional capacity. Success in achieving development objectives depended on good governance not only within countries, but also at the international level. Parliamentary involvement and inter-parliamentary cooperation were essential ingredients in promoting openness, fairness and inclusiveness within the international monetary, financial and trading systems. The unprecedented window of opportunity for the financing of development that had opened at the beginning of the twenty-first century could only lead to a successful outcome if developing countries and countries with economies in transition were able to participate effectively in international economic and financial decision-making and norm-setting processes, and in the efforts to reform the international financial architecture, as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus.

Mr F M VALLERSNES (Norway) highlighted the importance of establishing links between aid, debt relief and trade, and of ensuring that the recipient countries made a serious attempt to promote transparency and good governance in their institutions. Priority should also be given to broadening the scope of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) and increasing recipients' responsibility for their countries' development.

To attain the MDGs, with particular emphasis on establishing global partnerships between rich and poor countries in order to halve world poverty within the agreed timeframe, the developed countries must not only increase the amount of their aid, but also ensure that it was used more effectively. A possible strategy would be to move from project support to direct budget support, provided there was a corresponding commitment by recipient countries to promoting good governance, fight corruption and create democratic institutions. Trade and debt relief were two very important components in the battle against poverty. Consequently, the rich countries must ensure that the Doha Development Agenda was acted on so as to enable the developing countries to integrate more fully in the world economy. With regard to international debt relief, the Government of Norway had submitted an action plan in which it underlined the importance of making debt relief additional to

ODA, and of restricting its availability to countries that actively promoted good governance and combated corruption. In addition, the rich countries should commit themselves to fulfilling the obligations set out in the Monterrey Consensus, and which were an integral part of the global partnership.

As a result of economic growth in China and India, the first MDG could be achieved by 2015; however, some of the other goals would be more elusive. The situation in sub-Saharan Africa was a particular cause for concern. While the Government of Norway was deeply committed to participating in all the necessary actions, it believed the introduction of an international tax, as proposed in operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, to be premature. The search for innovative mechanisms was a positive step and should help to increase capital flows to poor countries, provided that it did not have an adverse effect on the developed countries' existing commitments. Priority should continue to be given to the timely fulfilment of the commitment to give 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA. To that end, he requested that some appropriate wording be inserted in the operative part of the draft resolution to supplement and reinforce that which was already contained in the ninth preambular paragraph.

Mr A PORAZ (Israel) observed that the Israeli parliament had recently adopted the budget for 2006, in which provision had been made to pay compensation to the settlers who would be leaving the Gaza Strip upon Israel's withdrawal. Since the election of Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) as the President of Palestine, the Middle East had ceased to dominate the media. That was because there had been fewer terrorist attacks, and no suicide bombings. For many years, Palestinians had worked in Israel, but that was not a solution. He therefore called on his fellow parliamentarians to put pressure on their respective governments to help the Palestinians to develop an independent, efficient and stable economy in order to raise their standard of living. It was clearly in Israel's best interests to have successful and peaceful neighbours.

Mr A PONLABOOT (Thailand) expressed his conviction that while free and fair trade was important in promoting development and poverty reduction, market access alone was not enough. Countries also needed to have sound domestic policies backed up by a

supportive international regulatory environment. The multilateral trading system and the Doha Development Agenda were important components of that environment, and parliamentarians had a duty to ensure that they were managed in a way that genuinely fostered development.

To attain the MDGs, there were many policy areas where parliaments, particularly in developing countries, could influence their governments: these included resource mobilization, institutional reform and good governance, economic and social policy-making, national strategy planning, and the promotion of democracy and human rights. With regard to international financial and trading mechanisms, their introduction should depend on the existence of certain conditions and safeguards, namely crisis prevention and management modalities, a more robust international financial system, support for regional and international cooperation, and a reformed institutional financial framework.

In Thailand, the proportion of the population below the poverty line had fallen from 27.2 per cent in 1990 to 9.8 per cent in 2002; a target of 4 per cent was envisaged for 2009.

Mr A GHZAYEL (Syrian Arab Republic) noted that the draft resolution called on parliamentarians to request their governments to strengthen and fulfil their commitments to developing countries in order to improve the chances of achieving the MDGs by 2015. He expressed the view that the resources thus generated should be invested primarily in education and in strengthening technological capacity. It should also be borne in mind that new challenges were constantly arising as a result of globalisation, and that they were making it increasingly difficult to attain the targets contained in the Millennium Declaration. He agreed that the international organisations, in particular, the United Nations, needed strengthening to improve their effectiveness in promoting development and resolving conflicts, such as those that were destabilising the Middle East and seriously hindering development in the whole region.

Mr G VARNAVA (Cyprus) said that in view of the harsh facts contained in the report, international financing and trading mechanisms needed to address not only the problem of developing countries' debt, but also the much wider issue of achieving the eight MDGs. In 2004, the United Nations General Assembly

had adopted a resolution on the follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey in 2002, in which it stressed the importance of reforming the international financial architecture, and urged inter alia developed countries to honour their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA. However, such an increase in ODA would not be enough to alleviate the plight of many developing countries. In addition, there should be vastly improved market access for developing countries' products, enhanced balance of payments support, and a clear and practicable plan for the promotion of debt relief, including debt cancellation in the case of highly indebted poor countries.

The billions of dollars that were squandered annually on armaments would go a long way towards fostering development in poor countries. Furthermore, it was not feasible to establish financing and trading mechanisms in conditions that undermined international peace and security in blatant disregard of the United Nations Charter and international law. So long as the political will to address the situation was lacking, the attainment of the MDGs would continue to elude the international community.

Mr N SAPOZHNIKOV (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation had wide experience, both as a creditor and a debtor country, of many of the problems associated with foreign debt. The Russian parliament had therefore set up a committee to consider the whole question of debt. In 2003, it had approved the establishment of a stabilisation fund, and by 2004 the Russian Federation had managed to repay a good part of its foreign debts. It had also cancelled more than half the amount of debt owed to it by certain developing countries. Having reached a position where the country's gold and financial resources exceeded its debts, the committee had ceased its work. However, when the Russian Finance Ministry had approached the Paris Club with a view to repaying the outstanding amount of its foreign debt, it had been informed that the Government would be required to pay a 10 per cent surcharge to compensate the creditors for lost interest. The experience of the Russian Federation supported the view expressed in the report that heavily indebted countries were doomed to remain net exporters of capital, and in some cases would have to pay in debt service up to four times the

amount of the original loans. It was totally unacceptable that the interest payments of heavily indebted countries should exceed their export revenue. The international community had a heavy responsibility to take steps to put an end to such a system, which in reality could only do harm to the global economy.

Turning to international trade, he emphasised his Government's commitment to promoting trade with developing countries, and mentioned some of the practical steps it was taking, including providing guaranteed financial support and preferential tariff regimes for their exports. The Russian Government also supported the implementation of the decisions laid down in the Doha Development Agenda, and would like to see the establishment of favourable trade regimes for developing countries that took account of their level of development. The Russian Government attached great importance to joining the WTO. Members of the parliament participated directly in national negotiations related to WTO membership and were included in official delegations engaged in relevant activities. The Russian delegation therefore strongly believed that the interests of countries that were in the process of joining should be taken into account in all WTO negotiations. He expressed support for an international tax, as it would provide a valuable means of support for poor countries.

Mr A MEALE (United Kingdom) said that since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, international debt, particularly in the developing world, and its effect on economic development had given much cause for concern. Therefore, the draft resolution needed to be strengthened as follows. It should repeat the agreements that had been reached at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the WTO, held in Doha in 2001, which had established access to trade opportunities. It should echo the decisions that had been taken at the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey in 2002, and build upon the resolution that had been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. All of the above highlighted the importance of maintaining flexibility in the eligibility criteria for programmes that promoted responsible lending and borrowing, such as the HIPC Initiative, and the need to help those countries that were nearing the completion point of the HIPC Initiatives but which had failed to achieve

lasting debt sustainability, in order to prevent an accumulation of unsustainable debt

It was also important to explore new mechanisms for addressing debt problems, such as debt-for-sustainable-development swaps and multi-creditor debt swap arrangements, and to invite representatives of the IMF and World Bank to consider carrying out a review of debt sustainability analysis methods that took account of economic changes caused by such factors as natural disasters and changes in global growth prospects. Lastly, he stressed the need to provide assistance to post-conflict countries in the early stages of their economic and social reconstruction and development.

Mr B McMULLAN (Australia) said that in his view, operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution constituted a fundamental flaw since it was unlikely that many delegates, on their return to their respective parliaments, would be advocating the introduction of a new tax. That being the case, it was impossible to justify supporting such a measure in the draft resolution. The proposed tax on international financial transactions would be paid ultimately by the weakest link in the chain of payments. Alternatively, countries would be deterred from undertaking the activities to be taxed, in which case little or no revenue would be generated. Even if such a supranational tax were to be introduced in the future, it would not deliver results within the time frame of the MDGs. The resolution would be more effective if it focused on other more substantive proposals which had the potential to contribute positively to attaining the MDGs, in particular, the International Finance Facility proposed by the United Kingdom. Proposals to reform and enhance the role of the World Bank and regional development banks could also have a direct impact on indebtedness.

Lastly, he called on the delegates from developed countries to overcome their understandable concern about the possible impact on their own poor of opening their markets to products from developing countries, and to introduce the necessary legislation.

Mr D OLIVER (Canada) said that the preliminary draft resolution broadly reflected the Canadian Government's position. However, the idea of an international tax should be treated with extreme caution in view of the many unanswered questions that remained. Section B of the report provided information which, if included in the preambular part of the resolution, might address some of the concerns,

but still left unanswered the question of what would be taxed. To that end, he drew attention to the Canadian delegation's proposal for a new operative paragraph 17bis, contained in document C-II/112/DR-am. The Canadian Government did not support an international tax. However, in 1999, the Canadian Parliament, in concert with the international community, had voted in favour of the Tobin tax, which had originally been intended as a means of reducing volatility in foreign exchange markets and foreign investment flows rather than as a revenue source. At the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland in 2005, the President of France had proposed several international taxes, including levies on cross-border financial transactions, taxes on fuel used in air transport and shipping, a US\$ 1 surcharge on air tickets specifically to fund the fight against HIV/AIDS, and a minimal tax on a small proportion of all financial transactions.

Mrs L HEDSTRÖM (Sweden) said that it was time for parliamentarians to play a leading role in poverty alleviation and in attaining the MDGs. To date, most of the decisions on debt relief had been taken by governments and the international financial institutions, while the countries who were affected by those decisions had little influence. In terms of dealing with global poverty, ODA had the least economic impact. Its value as a demonstration of solidarity was indisputable, but it could lead to "aid addiction" or even reinforce old patterns of colonial "charity". World trade on fair terms was a far more effective way to achieve sustainable economic development. However, neither ODA nor a fairer trading system could begin to have any significant impact in reducing poverty so long as developing countries continued to be crippled by debt. It was time to replace the HIPC Initiative with a more viable alternative and to include both debtor and creditor countries in the negotiations.

Mr J MOSCOSO DEL PRADO (Spain) said that the report prepared by Jeffrey Sachs did not rule out the possibility of the MDGs being attained. However, to increase the chances of success, the developed countries would need to increase ODA, change their unfair trading practices and cancel the debts of some countries. The President of the Government of Spain had had occasion to draw attention to the need for political measures, such as reform of the United Nations and the formation of international alliances.

However, the efforts of the developed countries would be to no avail if the developing countries failed to demonstrate their own commitment by promoting democracy, strengthening their institutions, increasing transparency and good governance, combating corruption, and preventing the flight of capital. The Spanish delegation would like to see those points reflected in the draft resolution. For example, operative paragraph 2 should mention the need for development funding to be allocated on a multi-annual basis, and operative paragraph 8 should make it clear that financing for debt cancellation should be additional to funding for aid. It was also important to put an end to the flight of human capital and to encourage multinational corporations to invest in the developing world. He supported the proposals for the amendment of operative paragraphs 15b and 16 put forward by Mr O Martínez and Mr R del Picchia, respectively. Lastly, national parliaments should adopt measures to support transparent and sustainable debt management.

Mr M ICHWANSYAH (Indonesia) said that Indonesia welcomed the increase in ODA that had followed the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey in 2002, and agreed with the findings of the UN Millennium Project regarding the phases that would be needed to achieve the MDGs within the agreed time frame. Bearing in mind that the effects of indebtedness, such as poverty and lack of public services, had an impact on all sections of society, it was imperative for parliamentarians, as the people's legitimate representatives, to have a voice in bilateral and multilateral trade and debt negotiations. While the main responsibility for mobilising funding for development lay with the countries concerned, there was a need for improved cooperation at the international level to develop innovative financing mechanisms, inter alia through private partnership and debt-swap schemes. The latter provided a viable alternative for some countries by allowing the resources that would have been used for debt service to be diverted to other productive activities. Debt-swap schemes could also benefit creditor countries by enhancing their role in environmental protection and sustainable development through debt-for-nature and debt-for-education swaps. He therefore called on creditor countries to give serious consideration to such schemes, particularly in the aftermath of the tsunami which had recently devastated South-East Asia.

Mr K LOCKE (New Zealand) encouraged delegates to look seriously at all forms of international taxation for development and debt relief, though they must not see any as a panacea or as an excuse for rich countries to fail to meet their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA. Among the international taxes, those that produced a "double dividend" by raising money for development and debt relief while benefiting the world financial system or improving the distribution or use of global resources were particularly attractive. In Section A of the report, it was stated that a Tobin tax of 0.01 per cent on all transactions in hard currency would yield US\$ 30 billion a year, although the figure would be reduced somewhat if the tax performed its other function of reducing speculative trading in currencies. Parliamentarians should encourage their governments to take the initiative and introduce a Tobin tax without waiting for other countries to take the lead. So-called "eco-taxes" also provided a double dividend by raising billions of dollars for development while reducing the consumption of scarce resources and the use of fossil fuels that caused global warming. It would also be practicable to impose an "international airline tax" on all international flights. However, the promotion of double dividend taxes should not be regarded as an alternative to the International Finance Facility proposed by the Government of the United Kingdom, which had the potential to double current ODA flows and increase the chances of meeting the MDGs by 2015.

Mr C HENG CHING (Singapore) said that in view of the many unresolved issues in the continuing WTO negotiations, parliamentarians from smaller and developing countries should continue to encourage their governments to work towards ensuring full implementation of the Doha Development Agenda. Such an outcome was desirable because a robust WTO would be beneficial to smaller and developing countries because of their high dependence on trade. A fair, open and rule-based multilateral trading system would safeguard their trading interests. Furthermore, the successful implementation of the Doha Development Agenda would provide additional market access opportunities, clear and objective rules on trade facilitation, and a set of uniform and transparent regulations. Parliamentarians could also play an active role in explaining to stakeholders the wider

implications of the WTO and the Doha Development Agenda

Addressing operative paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, which recommended the establishment of an international tax, he said that while his delegation supported the idea of a viable financing mechanism for the attainment of the MDGs, he agreed with the delegate from Canada that the proposed international tax on currency transactions left many questions unanswered and needed further careful consideration

Mr M ELFIRJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) underscored the need for greater transparency in the workings of the international financial and trade organisations to ensure that the needs of developing countries were taken more fully into account in future WTO negotiations. The developed countries must also revise their trade policies and open up their markets to products from developing countries. Globalisation should be made fairer so that all countries could benefit from it. The gap between rich and poor countries must be bridged in an effort to create the necessary financial and economic conditions, including the establishment of a level playing field in the treatment of indebted countries, in the interests of stimulating development

Mrs K BROSØL (Denmark) emphasised the importance of partnerships and shared responsibility in achieving the MDGs. For the developed countries, that meant increasing ODA to 0.7 per cent of GDP and ensuring a successful outcome to the WTO negotiations that would improve market access for the developing countries and ensure free and fair trade. The international community should seek to develop further initiatives to promote debt relief for the poorest countries while ensuring an accelerated process of debt reduction and cancellation. It should also be willing to consider new and innovative financing mechanisms, such as a tax on financial transactions

At the same time, parliaments in developing countries had a responsibility to take the lead in promoting democracy and respect for human rights, ensuring transparency and good governance, and combating corruption. The Government of Denmark had already drawn up a plan for combating corruption that highlighted its negative impact on economic growth and social welfare. Lastly, she called on developing countries to adopt a

more proactive approach towards promoting women's rights and encouraging their participation in economic development

Mr V HERATH (Sri Lanka) pointed out that 90 per cent of the problems that beset the developing countries were either directly or indirectly related to international finance and trade. The developing countries had been forced to be innovative in securing international financing when the multilateral agencies that had been their traditional source of funding had adopted a new approach which made future funding subject to the introduction of market reforms. In practice, the developing countries' attempts to comply had more often than not ended in failure. In the past, the developing countries had also had access to alternative international financing in the form of bilateral arrangements, often as project financing. However, many developing countries would derive the greatest benefit from securing more favourable international trading arrangements. They should therefore adopt a much firmer stance in pursuit of that objective. The world was at a crucial juncture, and failure to achieve the MDGs would lead to global instability that would affect the rich and poor alike

Mr A LEVENTIS (Greece), noting the unprecedented generosity of countless numbers of delegates' constituents towards the victims of the tsunami in South-East Asia, said that he had taken it as an indication of their willingness to pay a small amount of additional income tax specifically for third world aid. Exorbitant amounts of wealth passed through the world's money markets every day, yet no tax was levied on it. Even a small tax, like the Tobin tax, would yield a substantial sum that could be used to alleviate poverty and relieve debt in the underdeveloped world. With regard to administering poverty relief funding, the United Nations would undoubtedly be the most acceptable intermediary

He recalled that the power of parliamentarians to approve or reject the budget placed them in a strong position to insist that their governments undertook to pay the required amount of aid in full, while those from richer countries should demand that their governments allocated at least 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA. Parliamentarians could also exert pressure on their governments to give serious consideration to a Tobin tax by bringing it to the attention of the public and gaining their approval

Mr E BOENINGER KAUSEL (Chile) said that although Chile was a developing country, it had a stable economy with high levels of investment and low borrowing as a result of the government's responsible economic policies, good investment choices and the efficiency of its institutions. With regard to the global situation, he endorsed many of the proposals contained in the draft resolution, and some of the proposed amendments. The co-Rapporteurs had highlighted a number of important factors, including the fundamental need for compliance by the developed countries with their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA, the need to strengthen existing financial mechanisms and to seriously consider new, innovative ones, such as the International Finance Facility proposed by the Government of the United Kingdom, and the need to establish a mechanism for maintaining financial stability in the future. For the developing countries, it was crucial that the latest round of negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda should have a satisfactory outcome, particularly in terms of removing agricultural subsidies and non-tariff barriers. The protectionist policies of the developed nations deprived the poor countries of twice the amount they received in ODA. In addition to tackling current problems, action was also needed to prevent future crises. For their part, the developing countries must step up their efforts to promote good governance, responsible economic policies, transparency and the combating of corruption.

Mr M CVIKL (Slovenia) said that most of the current global problems had economic origins and could therefore be tackled effectively through the establishment of market structures and the creation of production and service activities that would provide a tax base. The delegation of Slovenia wished to propose the insertion in the draft resolution of a new preambular paragraph after the eleventh preambular paragraph: "*Convinced* that the efforts to carry out market reforms and integration into wider markets have enabled economic progress and prosperity of some previously highly indebted countries of Central and Eastern Europe". Less than 15 years ago, Slovenia had been part of a highly indebted country, but it had undergone a three-phase transition from socialist market economy to European Union member State. Hence, the Government of Slovenia was in favour of further trade liberalisation, in the belief that it

would stimulate production, increase export and import opportunities, widen the tax base, and enable highly indebted countries to invest in infrastructure, education and social projects. He urged parliamentarians to support a new tax on international financial transactions.

Mrs O EHSAN (Pakistan) said that the Government of Pakistan had adopted a holistic approach in order to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty. In the last five years, a multi-pronged economic reform process and renewal strategy had been launched to accelerate growth, promote trade, attract foreign investment and reduce external debt. The Government of Pakistan had also encouraged public and private institutions to pursue policies favouring the poor. The consequent economic growth had transformed the country into an emerging market. The fiscal space created as a result of prudent economic policies had now made it possible to focus on poverty and hunger. In order to realise the MDGs, in particular the eradication of hunger and poverty, the Government of Pakistan had employed some innovative methodologies for generating the requisite finances for development. These included the creation of a human development fund, the utilisation of foreign grants to retire its costliest debt, the initiation of interest rate swaps, the provision of property title for the poor, and the launching of a poverty alleviation fund. Other methods for generating financing for development that were worth considering included: more efficient management of existing resources by containing pilfering and institutional overlap; establishing an international regime to curb illicit transfers of development funds to other countries and the repatriation of looted wealth; discouraging the creation of tax havens in order to tackle tax evasion and capital flight; setting up income-generating pension and insurance funds for expatriate corporations; launching investment guarantee schemes; and underwriting all financial institutions.

Mr D DILOUDI (Algeria) said that the Algerian delegation had put forward a number of proposals for the amendment of the draft resolution which highlighted the plight of the African countries and reflected many of the shocking economic statistics contained in the report. It was imperative for the developed countries to play a major role in reversing what amounted to a life-and-death situation for many people in the developing world.

Mrs R ERSHAD (Bangladesh) emphasised the vital role trade could play in the development process by enhancing economic activity and creating employment opportunities. In Bangladesh, the ready-made garments industry in particular demonstrated the close link between export growth and poverty reduction, in this case among garment workers, 85 per cent of whom were women. The industry had flourished in Bangladesh in recent decades, and was contributing directly to economic and social development. It accounted for about 75 per cent of the country's export earnings, and provided some 1.8 million jobs. Monitoring a country's debt situation was useful in determining its capacity for sustainable development, and on that basis, Bangladesh had been shown to be performing well in terms of reducing its debt-export ratio.

Parliamentarians from Bangladesh might wish to discuss with their counterparts from the OECD countries the possibility of increasing ODA to Bangladesh, as well as the possible impact on their countries of dismantling certain trade barriers affecting low-income countries.

Mr J BERMUDEZ (Mexico) said that parliamentarians in developing countries should support all policies that were likely to promote development, but, at the same time, it was necessary to convince the creditor countries of the need either to reduce the interest on developing countries' foreign debts or even to write off part of those debts. With regard to the measures that need to be taken to promote economic development, the international community had to decide on whether the desired level of development should extend only as far as the fulfilment of people's basic needs, or whether the target should be genuinely sustainable development that would lead to the emergence of a well educated and well trained population with the capacity to increase productivity.

Mr O KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU (Ghana) said that the role of parliaments in alleviating poverty should be to examine the whole question of indebtedness. With regard to combating corruption, it was common knowledge that 25 per cent of all loans to developing countries were not used for the projects for which they were intended, and that loans for key projects generally ended up several times larger than the estimated cost. In the third world, corruption existed at the government, parliament and public service

levels. Instead of calling for a better global economic and financial order, parliamentarians in developing countries should be taking concrete steps to reform their own institutions by eliminating corruption-inducing allocations in national budgets and devising properly targeted programmes, instead of approving loans to grandiose schemes.

Mr G LUBINDA (Zambia) pointed out that over the years, the highly indebted poor countries had been subjected to various programmes, but the result had only been increased poverty. The underdeveloped countries were worst affected by trade marginalisation. As a result of the protectionist policies of the developed countries, exports from underdeveloped countries had fallen from 35.6 per cent to 26.1 per cent of the world total between 1953 and 2002. In the five years that had elapsed since the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 and the launch of the MDGs, very little progress had been made: infant mortality had increased, access to basic education had been static, and many people continued to die from AIDS. There were many ways in which parliaments could contribute towards bringing about improvements in the global situation, including by holding governments to their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of GDP to ODA and, where appropriate, reminding them of their obligation to respect human rights, promote good governance and combat corruption, by campaigning for the democratisation of the multilateral financial institutions to make them responsive to the needs of the poor indebted countries, and by raising awareness among the world's citizenry of their common destiny, and of the fact that sustainable development could only be a reality when everyone was able to benefit from the Earth's resources.

Mr B ANEMUT (Ethiopia) appealed to the developed countries to fulfil their commitments to provide financing to the developing countries, and also to effectively tackle the problem of indebtedness so as to enable them to meet the MDGs and play their part more effectively in the partnership agreements mentioned in Goal 8.

#### **Appointment of a drafting committee**

The PRESIDENT said that it was necessary to set up a drafting committee to prepare the final text of the draft resolution for

consideration by the Committee and presentation to the Assembly. The geopolitical groups had already nominated the delegations from Belgium, Egypt, France, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Uruguay. If he saw no objection,

the drafting committee would be established with that composition.

*It was so agreed.*

*The sitting rose at 1 05 p m.*

### **Sitting of Thursday, 7 April**

(Morning)

*The President of the Committee, Mr E K Gudfinnsson (Iceland), opened the meeting at 9 25 a m.*

#### **Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution (C-II/112/3(b)-DR)**

The PRESIDENT thanked the drafting committee and its President for their excellent work and invited the rapporteur to present the text of the draft resolution.

Mr J LOWENTHAL FONCEA (Guatemala), *rapporteur*, said that the drafting committee had been chaired by Mrs L A P Rosales (Philippines) and had included representatives from the parliaments of Belgium, Egypt, France, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sweden and Uruguay.

The committee had thoroughly considered the preliminary draft resolution and all the proposed amendments. Out of 124 proposed amendments, it had been able to accept some 40 either fully or in part. A number of further amendments had been entertained but had not been adopted, most often because other proposed amendments pertaining to the same paragraph and containing similar ideas had already been adopted. The drafting committee had worked in a flexible and cooperative manner and had succeeded in producing the consolidated draft by consensus.

The PRESIDENT recalled that work on the proposed draft should not include reopening the debate on the substance of a question, and that only sub-amendments would be admissible.

He invited the Committee to consider the draft resolution.

#### *Preamble*

#### **First through twenty-fourth preambular paragraphs**

*The first through twenty-fourth preambular paragraphs were adopted without a vote.*

#### *Operative part*

#### **Operative paragraphs 1 and 2**

*Paragraphs 1 and 2 were adopted without a vote.*

#### **Operative paragraph 3**

Mr H-J FUCHTEL (Germany) said that the German delegation had submitted, before the statutory deadline, a proposal for an additional paragraph after operative paragraph 3 to read: "*Urges the governments of developed countries to raise credit only in the framework of budgets approved by parliamentarians and to submit the allocation of credit finance resources to the full control of parliament.*"

Mr R DEL PICCHIA (France) said that the drafting committee had rejected the proposal on the grounds that such wording could lead to conditions being imposed on budget decisions. It had been the committee's view that situations could arise where it might not be possible to adhere strictly to the rules. For example, funding may be allocated to reduce a budget deficit, which, though not explicitly mentioned in the MDGs, was an important feature of the good governance that was called for in Goal 8.

Mr J LOWENTHAL FONCEA (Guatemala), *rapporteur*, said that it had been the drafting committee's view that the

substance of the proposal had been adequately reflected elsewhere in the draft resolution

The PRESIDENT put to a vote the proposal of the delegation of Germany

*The amendment was rejected by 28 votes to 4, with 1 abstention*

#### **Operative paragraphs 4 to 10**

*Operative paragraphs 4 to 10 were adopted without a vote*

#### **Operative paragraph 11**

Mr P SENDE (Cameroon) proposed the deletion of "and rescheduling"

Mr E BOENINGER KAUSEL (Chile) said that the possibility of debt rescheduling could not be ruled out altogether. He therefore proposed the insertion of "viable" before "rescheduling"

Mr J LOWENTHAL FONCEA (Guatemala), *rapporteur*, said that the insertion of "viable" was acceptable

M P SENDE (Cameroon) accepted this change

*Operative paragraph 11, as amended, was adopted*

#### **Operative paragraphs 12 and 13**

*Operative paragraphs 12 and 13 were adopted without a vote*

#### **Operative Paragraph 14**

Mr J W BAHK (Republic of Korea) pointed out that the drafting committee had decided that "expectations" should be replaced by "needs". The text should be corrected accordingly

The PRESIDENT said that the correction was in order and had been duly noted

Mr P SENDE (Cameroon) proposed the insertion of "and the elimination of agricultural subsidies" after "sustainable income"

The PRESIDENT noted that under Rule 12.2 of the Rules of the Standing

Committees, no new amendments to the draft resolution could be submitted after the statutory deadline

Mr E BOENINGER KAUSEL (Chile) pointed out that the elimination of agricultural subsidies was implicit within "sustainable income"

*Operative paragraph 14, as amended, was adopted*

#### **Operative paragraphs 15 to 23**

*Operative paragraphs 15 to 23 were adopted without a vote*

*The draft resolution was adopted in its entirety without a vote*

#### **Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The PRESIDENT proposed that Mr J Lowenthal Foncea (Guatemala), *rapporteur* of the drafting committee, should present the draft resolution to the plenary session of the Assembly

*It was so agreed*

#### **Preparation of the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

##### **(a) Proposal for a subject item to be considered by the Committee**

The PRESIDENT noted that the Standing Committee was expected to submit to the Assembly its proposal for the subject item to be considered by the Committee at the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly, to be held in Nairobi in May 2006. It also had to decide on the candidatures of the co-Rapporteurs. The Bureau of the Standing Committee had considered proposals received from individual members and the geopolitical groups, as well as recommendations from the Executive Committee, and had agreed on the following proposal for a subject item for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly, which he invited the Committee to approve: *The role of parliaments in environmental management and in combating global degradation of the environment*

The subject item had been chosen because it was in keeping with the Committee's remit, had not previously been discussed and

reflected current major United Nations concerns and projects

*It was so agreed*

**(b) Proposals for a co-Rapporteur**

The PRESIDENT recalled that it had traditionally been the Committee's practice to nominate one co-Rapporteur from a developing country and one from an industrialised country. With that in mind, the Bureau had proposed Mr J T Nonô of Brazil and Mr S Katoh of Japan. He took it that the Committee would wish to approve Mr Nonô's and Mr Katoh's nomination.

*It was so agreed*

**Election of the Bureau of the Second Standing Committee**

The PRESIDENT said that all the present members of the Bureau had been elected at either the 108<sup>th</sup> Conference or 110<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Assembly held, respectively, in Santiago de Chile and Mexico City, and, in accordance with Rule 8.1 of the Rules of the

Standing Committees, were eligible for re-election. However, the geopolitical groups had nominated two replacements: Mr A Fomenko (Russian Federation) as First Vice-President of the Eurasia Group instead of Mrs N Narochnitskaya, and Mr H Al-Alawi (Saudi Arabia) as substitute Vice-President of the Arab Group, instead of Mr A Al Akkas.

He also recalled that at the 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Santiago de Chile, it had been agreed by the six geopolitical groups that at the 112<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Assembly the geopolitical group holding the presidency would fill the post of the First Vice-President, and the geopolitical group holding the first vice-presidency would fill the post of President. He therefore took it that the Committee agreed that Mr A Fomenko of the Russian Federation would be elected as President of the Standing Committee.

*It was so agreed*

*All Vice-Presidents of the Committee were thereafter elected by acclamation*

*The session closed at 10 10 a m*

## **The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic**

*Third Standing Committee – Democracy and Human Rights*

### **Sitting of Tuesday, 5 April**

(Afternoon)

*The President of the Committee, Ms R Kadaga (Uganda), opened the meeting at 2 45 p m*

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee had before it the report entitled *The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic*, prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Mrs C A Martínez (Philippines) and Mr E Tumwesigye (Uganda) (C-III/112/R-rev); the revised preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs (C-III/112/DR-rev); and three documents prepared by the Secretariat containing the amendments submitted within the statutory deadline (C-III/112/DR-am 1, C-III/112/DR-am addendum, and C-III/112/DR-am add 1) Pursuant to the IPU's Statutes and Rules, the Committee was also called upon to propose for adoption by the plenary Assembly at its closing session a subject item for consideration at the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Members were requested to consult within their geopolitical groups in order to identify an appropriate topic, as well as to propose The corresponding co-Rapporteurs

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

(C-III/112/C)

*The agenda was adopted*

#### **Approval of the summary records of the session held in Geneva on 28 and 30 September 2004**

*The summary records were approved*

#### **Presentation of the report and draft resolution of the co-Rapporteurs**

Mrs C A MARTINEZ (Philippines), co-Rapporteur, introducing the report, said that the Committee was considering the subject topic at a time when there had been a flood of

treaties and declarations by leaders and stakeholders explicitly articulating the intention to respond to the HIV/AIDS pandemic Commitments and global spending on HIV/AIDS had significantly increased, yet the pandemic persisted, together with an epidemic of fear, ignorance, prejudice, stigma and discrimination that hindered more effective responses The HIV/AIDS crisis constituted an enormous public health and development problem, and the virus was the single most significant threat to the survival of humanity in the decades to come An estimated 40 million people lived with HIV worldwide, 95 per cent of them in the developing countries Yet the worst was still to come, for 13,500 people were infected daily, half of them among the 15 to 24 age group that would determine future prospects for development Lack of opportunities, social and cultural inequalities, poverty and violence all drove people to become vulnerable to AIDS The link between HIV/AIDS and development was evident There could be no development unless the basic tenets of individual human rights and dignity were addressed

The report first provided background information on the extent and pace of the epidemic; secondly, it offered a perspective on responses consistent with the principles of human rights; thirdly, it prompted reflection on the status of global commitments; and, fourthly, it provided an assessment of the gap between HIV/AIDS and human rights Above all, it set out to galvanise parliamentarians into taking effective action to defeat the pandemic It was to be hoped that the agreements reached during the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly would be translated into concrete action and effective responses Parliamentarians could not afford to remain mere spectators of human suffering

Mr E TUMWESIGYE (Uganda), co-Rapporteur, thanked the IPU for putting HIV/AIDS on its agenda, and urged the Organisation to keep it on its agenda In his own country, Uganda, HIV/AIDS had first been

recognised in 1982, and Uganda had soon become the epicentre of the epidemic. Comprehensive coordination mechanisms had been developed at an early stage, along with political commitment and a policy of openness. With a multisectoral approach involving a multiplicity of actors and a balanced ABC (Abstain, Be faithful, use Condoms) model of prevention, HIV prevalence among pregnant women had been reduced from as high as 30 per cent to about 6 per cent in one decade.

Globally, over the past two decades, over 60 million people had been infected, and 20 million had died, 85 per cent of them in sub-Saharan Africa. In Africa alone, over 14 million children had been orphaned by AIDS, and if no significant action was taken, more than 100 million people would be infected, over 50 million would die of the disease and more than 40 million children would be orphaned by 2020. Half of all new infections were among young people aged 15 to 24. More than 640,000 children under the age of 15 had been infected in 2004, 90 per cent of them through mother-to-child transmission. Most of those infections could be prevented through the use of simple technologies.

In 2002 about five million people – or 10 every minute – had been infected with HIV, with a death toll equivalent to that caused by the recent tsunami. The many factors accounting for the high prevalence of HIV in Africa, which were also applicable to Asia, included poverty and a high burden of other diseases, poor health systems, cultural and religious norms and attitudes within communities, high levels of illiteracy, the low status of women in society and the home, poor governance and lack of political commitment, and armed conflict, drought and other crises. Research was also being conducted into the possible influence of genetic factors. HIV disproportionately affected young people, especially those born HIV-positive. Many surviving HIV-positive children were now adolescents, and were beginning to become sexually active. Peer pressure, a lack of life skills and education, the breakdown in family values, drug abuse, subjection to pornography in the media and on the Internet, unemployment and lack of economic opportunities, especially for girl children, and a lack of information and services for young people all contributed to the prevalence of HIV among that age group in Africa.

In many countries AIDS posed a formidable challenge to the rights of children,

including the rights to food, decent shelter, education, health, clothing and security. In most affected countries, many families were headed by a child, lacked the basic necessities of life and suffered from psychosocial problems, stretching the extended family system to the limit. Most such countries lacked orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) policies and action and welfare plans. There was also the challenge of scaling up HIV prevention programmes to block transmission of the virus through access to high-quality male and female condoms and effective microbicides and through research into and development of HIV vaccines; such steps would inter alia ensure the right of the child to be born and raised in an HIV-free environment.

Challenges in the area of care and treatment included rising rates of multi-drug resistant opportunistic infections. Long-term provision of antiretroviral (ARV) therapy and voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) needed to be promoted. The provision of ARVs was a human rights issue, and denial of ARVs to persons in need of them was tantamount to genocide. Furthermore, those countries that had registered a significant decline in HIV infection in the 1990s were now witnessing a stagnation of HIV prevalence. The pandemic was expanding rapidly in Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The United States and Western Europe were seeing rising rates of infection and the emergence of super-strains, and Africa was faced with new trends towards infection as a result of drug use and homosexuality.

Significant new resources (over US\$ 14 billion annually by 2007) would be needed to combat HIV/AIDS. In the absence of favourable terms of trade, many developing countries were unable to raise the necessary funds from domestic revenues, and had to depend on grants and loans that many economists opposed as likely to cause fiscal deficits, inflation and macroeconomic instability. Against that background, there was a danger that the funds increasingly made available through the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief established by the United States Government, the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank and bilateral donors, might be declined by governments, in flagrant violation of the rights to health and life.

Accordingly, parliamentarians had a crucial role to play, through legislation, coordination, advocacy, resource mobilisation, monitoring, oversight and evaluation,

representation of the marginalised and vulnerable, and promotion of international collaboration. They must not turn their backs on that role. It was against that background that the preliminary draft resolution had been prepared. A revised version taking account of members' contributions was to be found in document C-III/112/DR-rev. The text, which consisted of 14 preambular and 17 operative paragraphs, was self-explanatory. The large number of amendments proposed showed the high level of interest that the topic had aroused.

In concluding, he wished to draw attention to an amendment proposed by the delegation from Mexico concerning the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the bill currently before the Indian parliament, which had prompted a number of demonstrations of protest at the Indian embassies in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and elsewhere. Six million persons living with HIV/AIDS in developing countries needed ARV therapy, but only 8 per cent of them had access to such treatment, and the majority of those were dependent on generic drugs manufactured in countries such as India. India now had to comply with the TRIPS Agreement. To date, India had provided patent protection only for pharmaceutical processes, allowing its generic industry to manufacture ARVs by other methods, such as reverse engineering. While the TRIPS Agreement now required India to provide a 20-year patent term for pharmaceutical products and processes, it provided considerable flexibility to manufacture, sell, import and export generic medicines under compulsory licences. The ability of the Indian authorities and generic manufacturers to avail themselves of those public health safeguards would, however, be limited if current legislative proposals were adopted. The Patents Bill provided for more extensive patent protections than were required under the TRIPS Agreement and other multilateral rules. Those "TRIPS-plus" provisions included an unnecessarily broad definition of patentable subject matter, unnecessarily cumbersome administrative procedures for issuing compulsory licences, and a substantial weakening of the "pre-grant opposition" procedure that would allow persons living with HIV/AIDS and the public to review and comment on patent applications. Although the law would govern patent protection for new medicines, it might also affect existing medicines in a procedure known as the "mailbox system". Since 1995 India and others

had been required to store patent applications, which must now be considered for patent protection. Nearly 7,000 pharmaceutical patents had been filed in the "mailbox". Those might include applications for ARVs currently being produced by Indian companies. The World Health Assembly had passed a resolution encouraging the member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) to make full use of the flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement to promote access to ARVs and other essential medicines. Failure by India to incorporate into national law the flexibilities permitted under the WTO multilateral rules could have grave consequences for access to affordable HIV treatment and the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS. At present, the Indian generic industry was the source of the ARVs and drugs used to counter opportunistic infections in Africa and Asia. Thus, the impact of the Indian Patents Bill on access to generic ARVs in developing countries would be profound.

The Mexican delegation had moved that the draft resolution should be amended in respect of the TRIPS Agreement, and the IPU should support that motion, thereby sending a clear message to the Indian Government. Recently, the United States President and Congress had worked through the night to try to save the life of one terminally ill woman. The IPU should call upon the Indian parliament and Prime Minister to devote more time to consideration of the Patents Bill, thereby saving the lives, not of one woman, but of hundreds of thousands of women, children and men in Africa and Asia who faced a death sentence as a result of the Bill. Every person had just one life. Parliamentarians should do everything in their power to preserve that one life at all costs. The WTO and countries legislating to comply with its rules should take due account of human rights, including the right to life. The Indian Patents Bill was a litmus test for the IPU Assembly. The debate at the current session would prove pivotal if it was able to affect the treatment of that bill.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee must now prepare a consolidated draft resolution on the basis of the preliminary draft text. In view of the very substantial number of amendments submitted, she suggested that a drafting committee be appointed to consider the issues in depth following the debate in the Committee's plenary. If that suggestion was acceptable, she would ask the geopolitical groups to propose candidates for the drafting

committee, having regard to equitable geopolitical distribution and gender balance

*It was so agreed*

### **Debate**

Mr C S ATWAL (India) said that safeguarding the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS had emerged as a formidable challenge worldwide, as the number of such persons grew and instances of discrimination and violations of their economic, social, cultural, civil and health rights became more frequent. Parliamentarians were in a unique position to play a key role in creating awareness and developing consensus in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As elected representatives of the people, they were able to influence government policy and programmes. By organising workshops and seminars and visiting those infected and affected, they could also influence public opinion and confront the stigma that so often attached to such persons. HIV/AIDS was a complex epidemic disease affecting not just individuals, but entire societies and civilisation as a whole. A human rights-oriented approach was necessary if the issue was to be addressed in a holistic manner. India was fully committed to combating the disease, and had introduced comprehensive national prevention and control policies and programmes to achieve the goals proclaimed at the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in June 2001. He was confident that the resolution adopted at the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly would prove a milestone in ensuring protection of the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Mrs A BRAGANÇA (Angola) said that about 90 per cent of the 13,500 new cases that occurred every day were the result of mother-to-child transmission. Yet most of those infections could be avoided through the use of existing methods of prevention and treatment. Confronted with the devastating social and economic consequences of the pandemic, the 87<sup>th</sup> and 106<sup>th</sup> IPU Conferences had adopted resolutions that remained relevant. The pandemic was not confined to a single country, region or continent, but was spreading, to affect rich and poor countries alike. If the donor community failed to take urgent measures, it would soon assume catastrophic proportions. Some 95 per cent of those infected lived in the developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Several countries of southern Africa were

involved in or emerging from armed conflicts which had resulted in damaged infrastructures, weakened public health systems and intense migratory flows. Such countries lacked the technical, material and financial resources to set up properly equipped laboratories and monitoring centres and to develop ARVs. Yet, having emerged from a 30-year military conflict, Angola had taken a number of measures to combat the disease, including the establishment of a national commission and, a result of a parliamentary initiative, the adoption of a national strategic programme, a law on HIV/AIDS, and regulations on employment and social security for those affected. Legislators could not remain indifferent to the challenges posed. In addition to legislative initiatives, they must draw on the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) guidelines in exercising their budgetary powers. Compliance with those guidelines and their impact should be evaluated in terms of the success of programmes in reducing the number of cases arising due to vertical transmission, in assisting those affected, including women and children, and in safeguarding their constitutional rights, observance of which was the hallmark of any democratic State.

Mr K ELSHAZLY (Egypt) stressed the strong link between HIV/AIDS and development. The parliamentary community could not remain silent in the face of such a catastrophe, but must move swiftly and energetically to confront the pandemic. He called upon all parliaments to ensure that in the laws they enacted and the policies they drew up for the prevention of discrimination and the observance of human rights, privacy and confidentiality were guaranteed in treating the victims, and their legal and administrative rights were ensured. Public awareness must be raised in order to protect lives and prevent transmission of the virus. Cooperation between countries and peoples must also be enhanced. Egypt was doing its best to confront and overcome the pandemic, and the Egyptian delegation had submitted a number of proposals to the Committee, which it hoped would be taken into consideration by the drafting committee and reflected in the final version of the draft resolution.

Mrs K HULL (Australia) said that Australia had great pleasure in supporting the draft resolution. Having chaired an Australian parliamentary committee on substance abuse, she had been deeply moved by the impact of

HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C on injecting drug users and their family members. That work had spurred her to pursue the issue at the global level. It seemed inconceivable that anyone would discriminate against a person suffering from cancer or any other life-threatening disease, yet that was what had happened a mere 20 years previously when her brother, a teacher dying of melanoma, had been ostracised by his school community. Fortunately, such ignorance was a thing of the past where the victims of cancer were concerned. Yet over the same period, nothing had changed for HIV/AIDS sufferers. Among the many reasons why people chose to remain ignorant, the most important was the perception that only homosexual men and injecting drug users were affected. That view was incorrect: females represented almost half the population infected worldwide and bore the greater burden of HIV/AIDS, for reasons such as gender inequity, community acceptance of violence against women, the lack of power of women to negotiate safe sex with their partner or to refuse sex, financial dependency and their role as primary carers. Recognising that it was far more fortunate than many of its Asia-Pacific neighbours, in July 2004 Australia had put in place its new international strategy entitled *Meeting the Challenge*, strongly reaffirming that HIV/AIDS was a priority and increasing its global commitment towards HIV/AIDS initiatives to 600 million Australian dollars by 2010. Consistent and determined political leadership at the highest level was critical to addressing that greatest of threats to global development, prosperity and stability. Developed countries must assist poorer and developing nations, sharing their wealth, treatments and technical know-how with a view to eliminating the transmission of HIV/AIDS. It was essential to foster a climate that respected and protected the rights of those living with the disease. The IPU Assembly was the forum in which to demonstrate willing leadership and initiatives to drive the very difficult reforms required. Fine words were not enough; what was needed to defeat the threat was a partnership between parliamentarians and those affected. United action was the recipe for success.

Mr L DAADOUA (Algeria) said that persons suffering from HIV/AIDS were the victims of injustice, isolation and exclusion from the work place, and lacked the financial resources and social guarantees that would enable them to be cured. Almost 11 million

children had been orphaned by the disease. While Algeria had been largely spared, it needed to look more closely at the problem of protection against the virus. In some countries of the world, the legislation in that regard was manifestly unjust. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians must ensure that governments shouldered their responsibilities with regard to HIV/AIDS in the same way as they had done with tuberculosis and malaria. They should use their influence to ensure that laws were enacted to improve victims' living conditions and establish associations of infected persons. The rights of victims must be protected, an effective vaccine developed, and access to medication ensured. Hospital treatment needed to be more humane, illicit sexual relations discouraged, complementary public health strategies established and public awareness raised. Pressure should be brought to bear on the major pharmaceutical companies to work in partnership with human rights bodies and governments in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He called upon parliamentarians from the countries of the North to help their former colonies in the South to cope with the ever-growing toll of victims. Algeria would play its part, through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), in combating the pandemic.

Mr U W CHUNG (Republic of Korea) said that persons living with HIV/AIDS had to contend with social stigmatisation and discrimination, while those with low incomes were denied access to proper basic treatment. Initiatives by international organisations to lay down human rights guidelines with regard to the treatment of HIV/AIDS sufferers were therefore to be applauded. While countries such as his own had long since enacted laws to prevent the spread of the virus and safeguard patients' rights, parliamentarians could do much more to combat the pandemic. Since there was as yet no cure for HIV/AIDS, prevention must be a central plank of the response. The IPU should encourage governments to place more emphasis on prevention and the protection of patients' rights, and parliaments should take legislative and budgetary measures to that end. Information and education programmes and awareness-raising campaigns could do much to reduce the risk of transmission. The use of condoms should be promoted, sex education programmes for young people expanded, and drug addiction managed and supervised. Medication must be made available at a

reasonable cost, particularly in developing countries. An inter-parliamentary forum should be set up to address the problem of patents on ARV drugs.

Mr A VILAN (Israel) said that the first task of parliamentarians was to fight the stigma and shame associated with HIV/AIDS within their own societies and cultures, so that HIV/AIDS sufferers could be treated in the same way as patients suffering from other diseases. Israel was fortunate in having been able to contain the disease; since 1980 just over 4,000 persons had been diagnosed as carriers or as infected, and domestic research on the treatment of HIV/AIDS was relatively advanced. As the basic human rights of patients included access to the best available treatment, countries where research on HIV/AIDS was more advanced should do everything in their power to ensure that the results were put to good use in less fortunate countries, where the disease was rampant. Countries whose pharmaceutical companies manufactured the drugs that helped contain the disease and alleviate its effects should exert pressure on the companies to make those drugs available in the poorer countries as inexpensively as possible.

Ms CHEW MEI FUN (Malaysia) said that HIV/AIDS continued to spread at an alarming rate, its impact further exacerbated by discrimination and widespread violations of human rights, including sexual violence inflicted on women and girls and the denial to young persons of information on transmission. The main mode of transmission in Malaysia was intravenous drug injection, followed by heterosexual transmission. The infection rate was highest among young adults aged 20 to 39, and the proportion of women infected was also increasing. The Malaysian authorities had established an HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme in 1987, based on the need to balance public health protection with respect for the rights of the individual, avoiding discrimination against infected persons and recognising information, education and communication as the keys to prevention. The strategy was to integrate HIV/AIDS treatment into existing medical and health services, providing funding for the non-governmental sector and community-based programmes. Parliamentarians could play a key role in the process by ensuring that an effective national response framework was established, by involving community participation, review and reform of public health legislation, by enacting

laws to protect vulnerable groups from discrimination and to ensure the availability of prevention measures and services at affordable prices, and by providing legal support services to educate persons affected with HIV/AIDS about their rights and to develop expertise on HIV-related legal issues.

Dame Marion ROE (United Kingdom) said that tackling the HIV/AIDS crisis at home and abroad was a major priority of the British Government. Its strategy for tackling HIV/AIDS in the developing world, published in July 2004, recognised the central role of human rights in addressing the problem. The rights-based policies included: an improvement of health care for the poorest and most vulnerable people, young people, women and children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, the provision of better funding and improved donor coordination, action at the international level to improve access to medicines, and increased support for research into treatments and the socioeconomic impacts of HIV/AIDS. One of the key targets was to put national plans into place by 2005 to meet the needs of children and orphans made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The United Kingdom Government would use its presidencies of the G8 and the European Union (EU) to increase action on HIV/AIDS. That action would include attention to the situation of the OVCs affected by the pandemic. It was crucial to commit resources to implementation of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Framework for the protection, care and support of OVCs, that had been widely endorsed by the international community and was already being translated into a large number of national action plans. The United Kingdom Department for International Development had announced a commitment to spend at least £150 million on OVCs over three years, and the Government would encourage other G8 and EU Member States to increase their support to national programmes. The Government of the United States had, like that of the United Kingdom, already earmarked funding and endorsed the framework, as had those of Germany and Denmark. The Governments of Canada and France too saw OVCs as a priority issue, but others had not followed suit. Along with other EU member States, the United Kingdom was also engaging in the consultation process towards a new Programme of Action for HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis which would be adopted by the EU in 2006. Consultations on the new EU development policy had just begun, and the process was

likely to include consideration of OVCs. A range of preventive approaches was needed, based on strong political leadership, better funding and coordination and acknowledgement of the central role of human rights in the prevention and treatment of HIV infection. The IPU had a vital role to play in that work.

Mr P GUNTER (Switzerland) said that in 1985 Switzerland had realised with horror that some of its regular blood donors were HIV-positive. Initially, systematic testing of all donated blood with the aim of ensuring risk-free transfusions, and campaigns to raise awareness of the risk of contracting the disease among homosexuals and injecting drug users had met with some success. Later, new ARV drugs had been developed. That, however, was the end of the good news, for the disease was still spreading. In addition to campaigns for safer sex, other weapons were needed. Above all, an effective vaccine must be found against the infection. As the search for a safe vaccine might take 10 years, it was all the more urgent to embark on the necessary research without further delay. Unfortunately, the pharmaceutical industry, which stood to gain handsomely from patients' dependency on life-long costly medication, was not interested in developing such a vaccine. Consequently, most of the funding for the research would have to come from States. Parliamentarians must ensure that their annual budgets allocated far more funds for that research, which remained a marginal activity in most countries. For once, the United States was an honourable exception. The federal Government generously funded vaccine research. The draft resolution should include a paragraph calling for appropriate funding of research to find an effective vaccine, without which the battle against HIV would be lost in the long run. Parliamentarians should take urgent measures to ensure that the search for a vaccine was placed at the top of their governments' agendas.

Mr T KAWAMURA (Japan) said that the extent of the pandemic was such that it had resulted in the collapse of social structures in some African countries. The majority of persons infected came from socially vulnerable groups. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, three quarters of young persons living with HIV/AIDS were women. Many were stigmatised, marginalised and discriminated against by society, others were destitute. When HIV infection amounted to a social as well as a

physical death sentence, it was very difficult to implement effective measures. Thanks to developments in treatment, HIV was no longer automatically fatal. As people began to realise that the disease was treatable, their view of those infected would change. Ready availability of treatment was the best way to fight the stigma that attached to the disease. The first task of parliamentarians must therefore be to ensure that all persons living with HIV/AIDS had access to treatment, particularly in the developing countries, regardless of gender or social status. It was especially important to promote the implementation of the WTO TRIPS Agreement.

The Japanese Government's HIV/AIDS policies advocated human security and focused on survival, livelihood and dignity. On the basis of that philosophy, it had contributed actively to the fight against infectious diseases, chairing the Kyushu-Okinawa G8 Summit in 2000, which had addressed infectious diseases as one of the main items on its agenda. The Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative had earmarked US\$ 3 billion to combat infectious diseases over a five-year period. The Japanese Government also played a leading role in the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Moreover, the Seventh International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific would be hosted in Kobe, Japan, in July 2005.

While HIV/AIDS was no longer an incurable disease, the fight against infectious diseases was an ongoing battle. Diseases such as avian influenza and dengue fever were emerging or re-emerging, and diseases were rife in the wake of the recent tsunami. Parliamentarians must work together with determination to face those crises and to protect future generations from those threats.

Mr M AL-TAMEEM (Saudi Arabia) said that perhaps the most important challenge facing the contemporary world was the threat posed by HIV/AIDS. The Government of Saudi Arabia had recognised the scope of the problem and had taken the necessary steps to combat it, on the basis of Islamic principles that called for the protection of human life in all its dimensions. Scientific research had revealed that extramarital sexual relations and drug addiction were the main causes of HIV infection. Mercifully, the rate of infection was low in Saudi Arabia. In 2004 there had been 1,111 cases, most of them among foreign nationals. As long ago as 1986, Saudi Arabia had devised a national programme to combat the disease, involving prevention of the spread

of the disease from abroad, comprehensive treatment for women and campaigns to raise awareness. Imports of blood products had been halted, and blood and organ donors were screened. Particular attention was paid to vulnerable groups such as prisoners and drug addicts. A strategy to raise awareness in schools and among young people was promoted, using guides, films and posters. Great attention was paid to patients, ensuring 100 per cent coverage to those infected and making use of the most up-to-date screening techniques.

Mr G GUALDRON (Venezuela) said that Venezuela was gradually building a participatory democracy to promote equity, equality, freedom, inclusion and the dignity of an American continent in which social justice, human rights and respect for the will of the people prevailed. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Venezuelan Government had found it necessary to place power in the hands of the people through community participation in "missions", rather than following the dictates of the administration of George W Bush. Had it not been for that change of policy, more than 80 per cent of the population would have continued to be denied access to information on health issues, including HIV/AIDS. The Government's strategies for the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS included free and nationwide access to medicines and screening, and prevention programmes and projects for educators and young people. In 2004 a National Programme of Health Promotion in Schools had been set up to provide integrated preventive measures and target high-risk groups through community projects, with the long-term aim of eliminating the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

Mr A AL-ENEZI (Kuwait) said that lifelong health care and protection against diseases were rights guaranteed by the Kuwaiti Constitution. Kuwait had acceded to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and had ratified a number of other international human rights instruments. It had taken the necessary steps to protect its citizens against HIV/AIDS. It had set up a commission to raise young people's awareness of the risks, provide the necessary treatment, promote good practices and research, protect patients' rights and ensure adequate distribution of medicines. In 1992, Kuwait had been one of the first countries to enact a law to protect its citizens against HIV/AIDS, setting

forth the rights and obligations of the various parties with regard to health and confidentiality. Determination was needed to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS, and the debates at the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly should help to further that aim.

Mr Č KRALJEVSKI (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that despite ever-increasing knowledge of ways of preventing HIV/AIDS through healthy lifestyles and safer sex, more and more young people continued to be infected with the virus. Even though his country had largely succeeded in complying with its international commitments in that regard, the 69 cases of HIV/AIDS it had recorded were only the tip of the iceberg. Since April 2003 a National Inter-Portfolio Group for HIV/AIDS which included parliamentarians among its members had prepared a three-year National Strategy including therapeutic and preventive measures, with financial support from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Parliamentarians of all political complexions had pledged increased support for central and local government programmes, with a view to reducing their dependence on foreign donations. While it was proud of its achievements so far, his country was aware that much remained to be done, particularly with regard to eliminating stigmatisation and discrimination within and outside the workplace, enacting legislation to safeguard the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and ensuring ready access to ARV therapy.

Mrs B M GADIENT (European Parliamentarians for Africa – AWEPA) said that while children orphaned by AIDS were to be found in almost every country of the world, in Africa they numbered not hundreds or thousands, but millions. In sub-Saharan Africa, 12 million children had lost one or both parents to AIDS, and the number was expected to rise to 18 million by 2010. Moreover, the problem was becoming worse because those caring for the orphans were themselves succumbing to HIV/AIDS. Only a dramatic scaling up of the response could adequately address the issue. Yet governments had been slow to address the orphan crisis as other challenges competed for their attention and for scarce public funds. The announcement by Nelson Mandela in January 2005 that his son had died of AIDS had marked a breakthrough in an African tradition previously marked by shame and taboo surrounding the topic. For a number of years AWEPA had helped organise international

events on the role of political leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS, focusing on various aspects of potential parliamentary involvement. The latest such event, held in September 2004, had been on the theme *Children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Africa*. Reprioritising international agendas UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and AWEPA had together produced a parliamentary toolkit entitled *What parliamentarians can do about HIV/AIDS*. Action for children and young people, which had been presented in Dublin in April 2004 at the EU Presidency seminar on *Good governance for an effective response to HIV/AIDS in Africa*. In the spirit of the Global Partners' Forum on *Orphans and Vulnerable Children Living in a World with HIV and AIDS* held in Geneva in October 2003, in 2004 AWEPA had launched a multi-year campaign on children and AIDS, in cooperation with UNICEF, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund and others, the final objective of which was to scale up efforts to protect children and combat AIDS in the African countries most affected, by mobilising more support at the parliamentary level in Africa and Europe. The first stage in the campaign had been a Parliamentary Consultation on Orphans and Vulnerable Children, which had resulted in the adoption of the Cape Town Declaration on an Enhanced Parliamentary Response to the Crisis of Orphans and other Children made Vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Africa. Within the framework of the campaign, AWEPA would go on to organise, in cooperation with UNICEF, workshops in African and European national and regional parliaments to bring children and AIDS to the top of the political agenda. AWEPA called upon all parliamentarians to help achieve the goal of a scaled up response to the problem as a matter of urgency.

Mr D S MIHALACHE (Romania) said that the protection and promotion of human rights were central to an effective response to HIV/AIDS. Accordingly, the Romanian Government had taken steps to integrate the human rights dimension into the country's relevant legislation and strategies. Under a law enacted in 2002, persons living with HIV/AIDS enjoyed social protection and non-discriminatory treatment in the areas of education and employment, and could not be dismissed on grounds of their health status. Romania's National Strategy for the period 2004-2007 guaranteed the rights of persons

living with HIV/AIDS in accordance with the international instruments to which Romania was a party. Measures were included to ensure universal access by young people to information aimed at preventing stigma and discrimination and to encourage the involvement of the media in promoting and protecting the rights of such persons. The draft resolution should first of all highlight the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on children, women and young people, and the need for responses tailored to the needs of those vulnerable groups. Second, it should stress that the pandemic posed a threat to stability and security, as had been recognised by the United Nations. Third, it should stress that parliaments could play a key role in the areas of adequate allocation of budgetary funds and monitoring of their efficient and transparent use, and in the promotion of country-level coordination of resources. Lastly, parliaments needed to share experiences, information and best practices.

Mrs FANG XIN (China) said that the Chinese Government accorded high priority to HIV/AIDS prevention and control, as HIV/AIDS was not only a public health issue, but also a strategic one, with a bearing on national prosperity, social stability, economic development and national security. A special committee for prevention and control had been set up, together with a medium- and long-term prevention and control plan covering the period from 1998 to 2010 and an HIV/AIDS containment, prevention and control action plan for the period from 2001 to 2005. Thanks to adequate financing, those actions had already yielded tangible results. The National People's Congress and its Standing Committee were amending the relevant laws and statutes to stipulate that HIV/AIDS, as an infectious disease, should be placed under a strict monitoring, management and prevention regime, thus providing legal guarantees for the implementation and control measures. They were also legislating to prevent discrimination against AIDS patients and HIV carriers. Great importance was also attached to enforcement oversight and task forces had been appointed to investigate and report on HIV/AIDS-related law enforcement. The Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health had hosted several seminars to discuss building a sound legal system and policy environment for HIV/AIDS prevention and control. Concerted efforts by society and global cooperation were required if the battle against HIV/AIDS was to

be won. Parliaments could play an important role in managing the problem. The National People's Congress of China was ready to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other parliaments to help humankind overcome the pandemic.

Mr H MANDUKU (Kenya) said that in addition to claiming millions of lives, HIV/AIDS posed a massive threat to development and had implications for the economic and social well-being of whole countries, as skills, knowledge and manpower were lost to the pandemic. An estimated 1.5 million people had died of the disease in Kenya, 2.5 million – about 80 per cent of them between the ages of 15 and 49 and the majority women – were infected with the virus, and the number of children orphaned by AIDS stood at 1.6 million. The HIV/AIDS disaster was threatening to wipe out the most productive sector of the population, with far-reaching implications for the future of the country. In 1999 the former President had declared a national disaster, in a landmark gesture of political will and commitment that had been followed by the establishment of the National AIDS Control Council. Since the 2002 elections the new President had declared total war against HIV/AIDS, personally participating in a television commercial designed to bring about changes in behaviour. The President also headed a Cabinet Subcommittee on AIDS and had launched the Constituency AIDS Control Committees which further testified to the political leadership needed to sustain efforts to control the epidemic. Parliamentarians everywhere must work together to strengthen prevention, protect the most vulnerable groups and improve care for those infected and affected by the disease.

Ms K SILPA-ARCHA (Thailand) said that according to the latest report by UNAIDS and WHO, the south and south-east Asian region was the region second most heavily affected by AIDS. Promotion and protection of human rights were fundamental to reducing vulnerability to the infection. The spread of the disease was a serious threat to the security and well-being of humankind, and had killed more people worldwide than the number that had died as a result of warfare, particularly in developing countries. Humanitarian intervention by the international community was called for to address the epidemic. Thailand had been cited as one of the success stories in alleviating the problem, thanks to the

holistic approach it had adopted in its National Plan for the Prevention and Alleviation of HIV/AIDS: 1997-2001, which had focused on human development and the creation of an enabling environment. Her delegation would be glad to share Thailand's experiences with other interested delegations. The Government of Thailand was conscious of the need to scale up services, support and community care, and hoped to mobilise international cooperation in promoting and protecting the rights of affected persons. The international community had a moral duty to provide developing countries with access to an effective and affordable vaccine by encouraging international organisations to undertake joint research with major pharmaceutical companies on the matter. Thailand had also hosted the Fifth International Conference on Home and Community Care for Persons Living with HIV/AIDS, in Chiang Mai in June 2001. Her delegation supported the preparation of IPU guidelines for legislators on the links between HIV/AIDS and human rights.

Mr A LEVENTIS (Greece) said that any strategy for combating HIV/AIDS should be coordinated by WHO and cover all aspects of the problem, with top priority accorded to prevention and treatment. A third aspect, the question of human rights, also needed to be addressed, since human rights impinged on the other two aspects of combating the disease. Prevention was the cheapest and most effective way of combating it. HIV/AIDS was usually sexually transmitted, and the widespread use of condoms would go a long way towards protecting people from the disease. Unfortunately, the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards the subject had been rather unhelpful. Substantial financial resources for education were also needed, and WHO should be given responsibility for their management. Another means of transmission was intravenous drug injection, but to the best of his knowledge, it lagged significantly behind sexual transmission, despite the assertion to be found on page 2 of the report. Treatment for the disease was available, but at a cost. The main problem in the fight against HIV/AIDS was the lack of financial resources. Too much was spent on weapons, and not enough on health. Funds were made available for multinational pharmaceutical companies to develop new drugs, but not to enable third world countries to purchase medication. Multinationals fought tooth and claw against any attempt to roll back patenting laws, which

would make medication affordable for those who needed it the most WHO should be responsible for coordinating a drug and treatment policy, and parliamentarians must work to that end People from developed countries suffering from the disease were many times more likely to survive than people from the third world because they had better sanitary and living conditions as well as readier access to drugs Most important, though, was the prevailing prejudice against people from poorer countries in the richer part of the world The slippery slope of mandatory HIV/AIDS testing for immigrants could only be counter-productive A person's health history was a very private matter, and people should in no circumstances be forced to disclose their health histories New quarantine measures were not necessarily helpful in countering the spread of the disease It was to be hoped that the efforts of parliamentarians would be helpful for the millions of HIV/AIDS victims

Mr F GOMEZ (Latin American Parliament) said that HIV/AIDS was not a problem confined to one high-risk group, but one that affected all citizens, the prevention of which depended on the behaviour of everyone The right to health was a right that must be guaranteed by the State as one facet of the right to life, along with access to health services The social security system should be a non-profit public service ensuring *inter alia* protection against catastrophic illness, regardless of a person's capacity to contribute financially to that system Good health should be not a privilege, but an entitlement States should sign up to the various international instruments relating to HIV/AIDS, including the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS entitled *Global Crisis – Global Action*, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS The provisions of the core international human rights covenants and conventions also remained pertinent

Mr M UNALDI (Turkey) said that the authorities had a twofold responsibility – to take measures to prevent the epidemic and to deal with infected persons in accordance with universal human rights principles Concerted efforts by the international community to develop an effective medicine or vaccine would help ease the problems of the countries most affected and reduce the potential public health risks for others Meanwhile, ARV therapy

needed to be made more accessible and affordable to enable patients to survive until a vaccine was developed In that regard, WHO's "3 by 5" Initiative and activities carried out by UNAIDS and the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria were to be commended With the support of donors and national governments, those programmes were yielding results There had been an 85 per cent increase in the number of people in the developing world receiving treatment since the previous year Yet much more needed to be done Application of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement should be extended to secure universal access to ARV treatment The key to success was a comprehensive approach combining prevention and care, together with intensified research to find a cure Meanwhile, the hardest hit societies needed the assistance of those in a position to provide it The use of information and communication technologies in educational campaigns, the involvement of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector, increased funding, and international cooperation to prevent sex trafficking and trafficking in narcotic drugs were also crucial His delegation supported the reference in the draft resolution to the role of national parliaments in halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and ensuring that the human rights of those affected were protected The Turkish parliamentary group would play its part in those efforts

Mr M AL KHAYYAT (Bahrain) said that HIV/AIDS posed the greatest contemporary threat to international stability There was a close link between human rights and HIV/AIDS In some countries, for instance, medical professionals had been prohibited from participating in conferences on HIV/AIDS A global multidisciplinary plan was needed to tackle the disease The rich countries should call upon the administration of George W Bush to devote as much energy and funding to the fight against HIV/AIDS as it had to the war against terrorism More doctors also needed to be trained, for ready access to medication would not solve the problem if the virus could not be controlled in the longer term Consequently, the rich countries should cancel the debt of the least developed countries (LDCs), to enable them to set up programmes to combat HIV/AIDS and alleviate the burden of poverty that contributed to the spread of the disease It was also necessary to end the protracted international legal wrangling over the WTO TRIPS Agreement that denied

developing countries access to affordable medication. Sexual relations must be regulated by moral principles in order to halt the spread of the disease. Parliamentarians must work to ensure that their national legislation was effective in combating the illicit trades in persons and narcotic drugs. More weight should be given to Islamic principles, which were opposed to materialistic Western values, in combating HIV/AIDS. Lastly, he wished to express a reservation regarding paragraph 13 of the revised preliminary draft resolution. While persons infected had a right to proper treatment, healthy persons too had a right to be protected from the virus.

Mr M AL-RIHMI (Jordan) said that parliamentarians must work proactively to halt the spread of a disease that was destroying whole societies; they must legislate to protect and preserve the rights of the victims, and ensure proper implementation of existing laws on human rights and HIV/AIDS. Although few persons in Jordan were infected, everything possible was being done to preserve their rights and dignity and ensure that they received the health services they needed to alleviate their suffering. Patience and perseverance would be necessary to address those very important issues. HIV/AIDS posed more of a threat to the world than did terrorism. Accordingly, the Jordanian Government commended the efforts of those developed countries that were channelling financial resources into finding a cure for HIV/AIDS, rather than into the war against terrorism. Extramarital sexual relations, the major cause of the spread of the virus, were prohibited by Islamic Shariah, which also called for the protection and treatment of all vulnerable persons.

Mr S M MOUSAVI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that parliaments could play an effective role in halting the epidemic and preventing infringements of the human rights of those affected, for example by cooperating and exchanging experiences in the preparation of laws and standards and the monitoring of their implementation. Although the rate of infection was low in his country, the rise in the number of those infected had become a matter of concern. The Ministries of Health and Education, university medical faculties, prison, social welfare and blood transfusion services, the Iranian Red Crescent Society and the media were all involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. A national committee had been established in 1987 to coordinate the work of the various

departments and prepare a national strategic plan against HIV/AIDS. In the implementation of that programme, more than one million people had been tested for the virus in compliance with human rights standards. Those who tested positive were given ARV treatment to prolong their lives. Counselling centres had been established throughout the country. Educational measures included the provision of information in school textbooks, the distribution of millions of posters and brochures, and workshops and seminars for vulnerable groups.

Mr F MEZA MONCADA (Chile) said that 20 million people had died of AIDS, and that of the 40 million persons currently infected, 90 per cent were unaware of their condition and continued to spread the disease. The Chilean parliament had enacted an Act on AIDS which was aimed at preventing the spread of the disease and curbing discrimination against infected persons. A National Commission on AIDS (CONASIDA) had also been established. Parliamentarians of all countries must play a more active role in combating the disease. It was intolerable that policies of apartheid against HIV/AIDS victims should continue to exist in the twenty-first century. The time when the disease had been confined to homosexuals, drug addicts and prostitutes was long past. In the past six years the annual rates of increase had been 12 per cent among men and 20 per cent among women. In 1990, one Chilean woman had been infected for every 13 men; the proportion was now one woman for every five men. Most women victims were married and had been infected by unfaithful partners. It was no longer possible to halt the spread of the virus simply by advocating marital fidelity or sexual abstinence. Campaigns were needed to promote safe sex, especially for young people. HIV/AIDS was seen as synonymous with death, rejection and fear, and HIV-positive persons were the targets of discrimination. Those who had managed to halt the course of the disease found it impossible to become reintegrated in society and the workplace or to resume their studies. Most countries lacked any policy to protect persons with the disease from indifference on the part of society or to provide them with psychological support. Yet proximity to infected persons posed no risk: the disease was not contagious, and the virus could survive only in body fluids. There was therefore no reason to exclude an HIV-positive person from ordinary society. Parliamentarians must foster responsible sex education in schools, promote the use of condoms and enact legislation to

increase resources for treatment using generic drugs

Mrs Z BOUAYAD (Morocco) said that since the first appearance of HIV/AIDS in her country in 1986, the Moroccan Government had gradually introduced a range of measures to halt the spread of the disease. National expertise had been developed in the field, and strategies had kept pace with epidemiological, medical and social advances. A National Plan to Combat AIDS had mobilised human and financial resources to implement the strategies in a non-discriminatory manner. In 2002 the country had received support from the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Incidence of the disease was low in Morocco. As many women as men were infected. The National Plan involved epidemiological surveillance, prevention, awareness-raising, screening and free treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Civil society, NGOs and a number of relevant ministries participated in the implementation of the strategy, which involved a twofold approach, providing information campaigns for the sectors of the population assumed to be healthy and effective treatment for those infected. Parliamentarians could play a role by providing effective health systems and education campaigns, increasing the budgets of departments involved in combating the pandemic, developing partnerships with national and international NGOs to ensure the availability of generic drugs and working to ensure compliance of pharmaceutical companies with bioethical standards.

Mr D N CHAUDHARI (Nepal) said that the root cause of the HIV/AIDS pandemic was a lack of awareness. As the people's representatives, parliamentarians had a role to play in promoting that awareness in the community. The two main causes for the increase in the number of HIV cases in Nepal were the flow of young men seeking employment abroad and transboundary trafficking in women. Since 1988 the Nepalese Government had launched a number of HIV/AIDS prevention programmes and partnerships with NGOs. It was also committed to the United Nations Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the MDGs. Its Strategy for HIV/AIDS Prevention for the period from 2002 to 2006 adopted a multisectoral, human rights-based approach with the involvement of civil society, and included measures to reduce stigma, a broad

political commitment and a continuum of prevention to care. Developed countries needed to continue and increase their financial and technical assistance to developing countries to combat the epidemic and put an end to preventable loss of life.

Mr A MOUSSALLI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that HIV/AIDS sufferers should not be subjected to any form of discrimination or impairment of their rights, including the right to confidentiality regarding their health history. Everyone had the right to benefit from health services. Individuals had a God-given responsibility for their own well-being and for ensuring the well-being of others. Governments, for their part, were responsible for providing services to the victims of HIV/AIDS, and international authorities, including the United Nations, should help them to ensure that adequate and humane treatment was afforded to those infected, particularly in view of the high cost of such treatment. Effective drugs were now available, but were often the monopoly of a few pharmaceutical companies.

Mrs J CHISUPA-CHIPWENDE (Zambia) said that parliaments, as legislative bodies, needed to play pivotal roles in ensuring that the human rights of women and the girl child were translated into strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. No meaningful development could be achieved if AIDS was allowed to devastate human resources and capacities. Zambia was greatly affected by the pandemic, which had led to the collective social and economic degradation of most of its people. A study conducted in 2004 had shown that 70 per cent of HIV-positive Zambians were women. Unfortunately, that gender ratio was not reflected in the statistics regarding those receiving ARV therapy: in one district, of the 40 people receiving ARV treatment, only three were women. In Zambia the pandemic was fuelled, inter alia, by poverty, limited resources for prevention and care, gender inequality, denial and stigma, and the customary law system which allowed men to enter into polygamous marriages. The Government's strategy aimed to reduce the HIV prevalence rate from 20 to 11 per cent and improve the health status of persons living with HIV/AIDS by 2005. A single institution, the National HIV/AIDS/STD/TB Council, coordinated all governmental and non-governmental actions and programmes in the struggle against

HIV/AIDS Addressing the impact of the pandemic on women also required legislation to rectify glaring gender inequalities. Most important of all, only when the Government's debts were cancelled could the funds thereby released be put towards programmes for the empowerment of women and young people. It was women's economic vulnerability that denied them access to medication and made them stand by helplessly as their daughters were sexually abused. Accordingly, she urged the international community to put together aid packages that were affirmative for women.

Mrs N BODHISANE (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that in her country women were 2.5 times more likely than men to catch HIV/AIDS. While, according to WHO statistics, the country had a prevalence rate of only 0.06 per cent, it had borders with five countries with high prevalence rates, and screening was still in its infancy. A National Committee on HIV/AIDS Prevention had been established, and was initially focusing on awareness-raising campaigns, reintegration of infected persons in society, and combating discrimination. In collaboration with the National Committee, UNAIDS, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), relevant NGOs and the Ministry of Health, the Lao National Assembly had organised a number of seminars and symposiums on regulations and law enforcement related to treatment and care of those infected. Pending further legislation, it had empowered the Standing Committee on Socio-Cultural Affairs to oversee the implementation of HIV/AIDS strategies. In 2004 the Lao Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development had been established with the aim of helping to ensure the health, education and social welfare of the population; part of its mandate was to secure humane treatment for persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Mrs D M SAURI RIANCHO (Mexico) said that about 28,000 of the 90,000 HIV/AIDS sufferers in Mexico had free access to ARV treatment. Some 16 per cent of the victims

were women, and 2.5 per cent were under 15 years of age. The health sector institutions fulfilled the Government's commitment to provide universal ARV coverage to those who did not have social insurance coverage. Inter-institutional coordination was fundamental to the strategy to provide care for HIV/AIDS victims. The Mexican Congress had authorised an increase in the budget to meet the target of universal access to ARVs. A National Council for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control (CONASIDA) had been established, and together with the Centre for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS, promoted the participation of civil society associations and NGOs in efforts to combat the disease. Screening and early provision of ARVs to infected pregnant women to prevent mother-to-child transmission were priorities. Prevention took the form of the timely provision of information to the public, and especially to young people. CONASIDA had conducted mass campaigns to promote the use of condoms and safe sex, with due respect for traditional customs and religious beliefs. Full respect for the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS was being achieved through media campaigns to combat stereotypes and ignorance, and through legislation imposing sanctions on persons who infringed those rights. Persons with HIV/AIDS who had been victims of discrimination could henceforth apply to the courts for the restitution of their rights.

On the basis of its recent experiences, the Mexican delegation was proposing amendments to the preliminary draft resolution. These were aimed at combating the ignorance and intolerance that led to the marginalisation of persons affected with HIV/AIDS; they also addressed the disproportionate effect of HIV/AIDS on women as a result of gender discrimination, and urged governments and parliaments to promote the use of the TRIPS Agreement to enable patented pharmaceutical products to be used in the eradication of HIV/AIDS.

*The meeting rose at 6 05 p m*

**Sitting of Wednesday, 6 April**

(Morning)

*The President of the Committee, Ms R Kadaga (Uganda), opened the meeting at 9 05 a m*

**Debate**  
(continued)

Mrs A MALIK (Indonesia) said it must be acknowledged that persons living with HIV/AIDS were vulnerable to human rights abuses and prone to discrimination and stigmatisation. Governments were responsible for promoting human rights as well as public health, and must do so proactively rather than merely refraining from violating those rights themselves. While none of the international human rights treaties specifically mentioned HIV/AIDS, the various treaty monitoring bodies had shown a commitment to looking at the implications for government action. Tangible results included the 1996 International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights and various resolutions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. On the basis of the concepts set forth in those texts, parliaments could monitor compliance with human rights obligations in the context of strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention. Her delegation supported the call to establish parliamentary committees to focus on prevention measures and to seek to secure the involvement of all sectors of society in those processes. Such bodies should be empowered to review the extent to which interventions were respectful of human rights and beneficial to public health. Lastly, effective action to control the pandemic and mitigate its impact required international assistance and cooperation. Her delegation was hopeful that the IPU's mechanisms could help to ensure the continued commitment that was crucial to halting the disease.

Mrs E TOMSON (Estonia) said that in 2003 the Estonian parliament had set up a special committee for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug addiction. The first case of HIV/AIDS had been recorded in Estonia in 1988, and the epidemic had peaked in 2001. Since then, the number of new cases had fallen by 40 per cent. The commonest cause of the spread of HIV was intravenous drug injection, mostly among males aged 15 to 25. In 1997 a pilot needle-exchange programme had been started with support from the Soros

Foundation. The 40 per cent decrease in new cases was largely the result of the success of such programmes. Unfortunately, sexually transmitted HIV was on the increase. The committee had stressed that HIV/AIDS was not just a medical, but a social and economic problem, and one that needed to be made a national priority through mobilisation of all available local resources and the involvement of international aid agencies. The Ministry of Social Affairs had prepared a draft national strategy in consultation with international experts. Estonia was also grateful to the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for financial support that had enabled it to expand its prevention and treatment programmes.

Mr A KOZLOVSKIY (Russian Federation) said that until such time as an effective vaccine was found, measures to control the virus would be doomed unless poverty, sex trafficking, commercial sex and drug addiction were first addressed. Still, parliamentarians could do a great deal in the fight against HIV/AIDS. First and foremost, they could draft effective legislation to support health education, raise awareness, ensure respect for human rights, reduce the rate of infection among high-risk groups and allocate adequate budgetary resources to combat the problem. His country had been slow to realise the extent of the threat posed by HIV/AIDS: not until 1995 had a law guaranteeing respect for the human rights of victims and free treatment and medication been adopted by the parliament. Despite the measures taken, the virus continued to spread. The problem could not be solved at the national level; accordingly, the Russian Federation participated in and supported all international and regional HIV/AIDS programmes, and its parliamentarians played an active role in trans-Atlantic partnerships against HIV/AIDS. While individual efforts were commendable, what was needed was united action. Cooperation among parliaments was of crucial importance in the fight against the pandemic.

Mr H ANDERSEN (Denmark) said that the Danish Government was launching a new strategy in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Its central plank was a human rights-based approach, for stigma, discrimination and lack of

respect for human rights continued to increase vulnerability to infection. In debating the preliminary draft resolution, the committee should endeavour to reach out to marginalised groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons, prisoners, sex workers and injecting drug users. In the past, many people living with HIV/AIDS had faced discrimination in the workplace and community owing to misinformation, ignorance and fear. Experience showed that with the right support, work-based policies and initiatives reduced stigma and vulnerability. Male behaviour change was of particular importance when it came to reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. Work-based education programmes targeting men, who would not otherwise come into contact with prevention programmes, had proved to be effective. Greater awareness and openness were needed to help prevent the further spread of the virus and secure support for those already infected. Through its new strategy, the Danish Government would support the promotion and protection of human rights as an essential component in preventing the transmission of HIV.

Mrs M KANEVA (Bulgaria) drew attention to a Declaration of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of 12 January 2005 concerning the legal proceedings against five Bulgarian nurses, in which the Congress demanded compensation for the families of HIV-infected children and capital punishment for those alleged to have caused an epidemic in the paediatric hospital in Benghazi. The Declaration, and some statements by Libyan leaders, constituted unacceptable pressure on the courts in which the death sentences were being appealed. The Bulgarian Government maintained that there was incontrovertible evidence that the convicted Bulgarian nurses were innocent. A report on the case prepared by the world's two foremost experts on the HIV/AIDS virus, Professors Luc Montagnier and Vittorio Colizzi, had found that the outbreak at the Al-Fateh Children's Hospital had occurred owing to poor hygiene in 1997, before the arrival of the Bulgarian medical staff. The Bulgarian Government was providing immediate help to the affected Libyan children and their families, for whose human tragedy it felt deep and genuine sympathy. It welcomed the decision of the European Union Council of October 2004 to provide assistance to the Libyan health services and cooperate to the

best of its ability with a view to finding a solution to the grave issue of the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. The actions of Bulgarian parliamentarians and the support provided by inter-parliamentary organisations were part of those strenuous efforts. Support and solidarity from the IPU were crucially important for Bulgaria, and it was hoped that they would be forthcoming, in the name of human rights and the rule of international law.

Mr P LORENZINI BASSO (Chile) said that people were afraid to admit publicly that they were HIV-positive for fear of being rejected by their families and friends as though they were plague victims. AIDS had already killed half as many people as had been killed in the Second World War, without firing a single shot. It was now the fourth largest cause of death in Chile, and particularly affected young people and women. The pandemic required not just an immediate but also a long-term response, involving the united efforts of state, private-sector, institutional, cultural, religious, civil, social and not least parliamentary actors, for the problem was not simply medical, but had financial, ethical, educational, cultural, psychological, informational and human rights dimensions. Parliamentarians must enact wide-ranging legislation to ensure cooperation between the public and private sectors and the active participation of civil society associations and NGOs. For governments alone were not equal to the challenge. Parliaments must legislate to counter the lack of adequate, timely and accurate information, confidentiality and professional know-how. Legislative action rather than fine words was required of parliamentarians.

Mr O LÂNKE (Norway) said that HIV/AIDS-affected people in Norway experienced serious discrimination at work and in their local communities. In an ideal world, sexual abstinence and fidelity would be sufficient, but HIV/AIDS would not wait for an ideal world. It was spreading fast, in ways that could be simply prevented, by the use of condoms. HIV/AIDS threatened the very structures of society in a number of countries. Unless the threat was tackled, the MDGs could not be achieved. His delegation supported the text of the resolution, which pointed to the responsibilities of leaders both in developing and in developed countries. The issues of stigma and discrimination were as difficult in the rich world as in the poor, but the consequences were much more dramatic in the

poorer countries. The fight against the disease could not succeed unless people were willing to be tested for their HIV status, and when they risked facing stigma and discrimination if they tested positive, they had no incentive to do so. Stigma and discrimination could be combated through political leadership, and parliamentarians had a responsibility to contribute to that most important task. They must do so in their constituencies, through public debates, by making their views known, and by explaining why people living with HIV/AIDS must be included in society. Religious leaders, too, must realise their power and use it to the fullest. Only when stigma had been removed could the other strategies be successful.

HIV/AIDS was increasingly becoming a woman's disease, particularly in Africa. The stigma of HIV and AIDS was stronger for women than for men, even in equality-minded Norway. Women, particularly in poor countries, often did not have sufficient power and education to take charge of their own and their families' lives. They must first and foremost be educated: the "education vaccine" could be a more powerful weapon in the fight against HIV/AIDS than any medical remedy. An educated woman knew how to protect herself and others, and was far more likely than others to lead a happy and healthy life.

Mr H S JÄRREL (Sweden) said that the United States was a world leader in research into HIV/AIDS and contributed considerable resources that were channelled through international NGOs. The EU could contribute more, but it still lacked an action plan for dealing with the issue. It was high time that the EU moved from words to action. Every country had an individual responsibility not only to halt the spread of HIV and manage its consequences, but also to ensure that the worst-hit countries received targeted support to deal with the problem. The fight against HIV/AIDS was one of Sweden's development cooperation priorities. He was therefore pleased to announce that in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank, the Government of Sweden would contribute SEK 100 million to a special fund recently established to support the struggle against HIV/AIDS in Asia. The Swedish delegation also welcomed the idea of establishing a central permanent committee within the IPU with the task of supporting parliamentarians in their efforts to deal with the challenge. In that context, the importance of sex education and information – in schools,

health services and, not least, in families – could not be over-emphasised. Respect for internationally accepted human rights standards was also a key to the success of the struggle against epidemics and pandemics.

Although women were more exposed than men to the risk of HIV/AIDS, the issue affected the whole population. Churches and religious communities had a particularly important role to play. It might even be necessary to review some of the more rigid attitudes to sex and partnership in favour of a more realistic view based mainly on medical science and proven experience. It was above all documented knowledge and expertise that would bring success in the struggle against HIV/AIDS.

Ms M OSMAN GAKNOUN (Sudan) said that HIV/AIDS did not discriminate between men and women, young and old, and was intimately linked to patterns of behaviour. The Sudanese Government was endeavouring to provide treatment for all victims, nationwide. It was currently working on a Five-Year Plan for comprehensive coverage, and a commission had been set up, with branches in all provinces, including representatives from all the various ministries concerned. The Government of Sudan also worked with the United Nations, volunteers, academics, and HIV/AIDS victims themselves. It was politically committed to addressing the crisis and preventing any further spread of the disease. It was also working to improve blood safety, conduct awareness-raising campaigns and avoid stigmatisation of the victims – all within the framework of its religious convictions. Its religious leaders played a paramount role in inculcating the values of tolerance, forgiveness and caring. School curricula should include information regarding HIV/AIDS prevention and stress the need for equitable treatment for those living with the disease, to enable them to live a normal life. With God's help, the international community could rise to the challenge of achieving a world free from the disease.

Mr R COETZEE (South Africa) said that South Africa had the tragic distinction of being at the forefront of the HIV/AIDS onslaught. While he was supportive of the draft resolution, he believed that South Africa's experience highlighted the limits of what policy, legislation and programmes could achieve in the fight against the disease. South Africa now had a comprehensive prevention, treatment and care programme that, on paper, was one of the best in the world. It had taken far too long to

achieve that state of affairs, but now that the policy and legislation were in place it had been found that infection rates continued to increase, while the implementation of the treatment programme progressed at an agonisingly slow pace. The lesson was that active and courageous leadership was absolutely essential to the full and effective implementation of any policy or programme, because every prevention campaign aimed at changing behaviour, and testing, treatment and care programmes must overcome the fear of social stigmatisation and the many unhelpful myths that still surrounded HIV/AIDS. Political, religious and social leaders, working together, were the only people who could change practices and de-stigmatise HIV/AIDS. To do so, they must speak out and lead by example. They needed to tell the unvarnished truth about what HIV and AIDS were, how HIV could be prevented, and how AIDS could be treated. That focused message must be repeated with great frequency, in massive volume, and over an extended period.

Leaders also needed to acknowledge that one factor underlying the spread of HIV was that many women and girls simply did not have the power to exercise full control over their sex lives and their bodies. He was referring not to rape, which was a global problem in its own right, but to coercive unsafe sex – the kind of sex that many women engaged in as a consequence of patriarchal social and cultural ideas and practices. The empowerment of women and the fight against the spread of HIV were two inseparable facets of the same struggle. Leaders needed to acknowledge that fact and respond to it vocally and with vigour. Any country that refused to face up to it would almost certainly lose the war, and the cost would be counted in untold suffering and misery. Lastly, he endorsed the comments of those speakers who had stressed the need for more resources to be devoted to the search for an effective vaccine. Unless one was found, the brutal truth was that millions were going to die, antiretrovirals or no antiretrovirals.

Mrs E BEYENE (Ethiopia) said that the HIV/AIDS pandemic had wrought havoc among the Ethiopian population. The Government had responded by putting in place a national policy, establishing a National AIDS Council and a coordinating office for prevention and control, and designing a strategic framework for a multisectoral national response. Unfortunately, those bodies had been unable to implement their interventions as planned, and the funds allocated by the World

Bank and other donors for project implementation had remained unutilised. To rectify the problem, the coordinating office had employed a management consultancy firm to conduct an assessment at federal level and produce guidelines for mainstreaming HIV/AIDS interventions. Strategic management procedures and monitoring mechanisms were included in the guidelines, the purpose of which was to enable federal government organisations to plan efficiently and improve implementation through effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation. Training in planning, mainstreaming and management was essential to avoid further unnecessary delays, and continuous sensitisation, advocacy and capacity-building were needed to bring about the desired changes of behaviour and mitigate discrimination and stigmatisation. She urged all parliamentarians to join hands in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Mr J SEELAM (India) said that, as a rough estimate, about 5.1 million of India's population of 1.2 billion were infected with HIV/AIDS. His parliamentary group was attempting to galvanise parliamentarians at national, state and district levels to play a more effective role in addressing the catastrophe at the grass roots, and had organised a two-day convention to that end. It sought to coordinate the work of NGOs active in rural areas, as well as youth and students. It had organised voluntary counselling and testing centres. Persons living with HIV/AIDS were involved in the management and treatment of the disease.

Mrs B M GADIENT (Switzerland) said that in 2004 natural disasters had pushed the HIV/AIDS pandemic off the front pages, even though advances in prevention and treatment could not keep pace with the spread of the virus in many countries. She therefore commended the IPU for placing the topic on its agenda. Efforts needed to be redoubled, inter alia by setting up comprehensive national strategies of the sort that few countries had yet adopted. Parliamentarians everywhere must play their part in the international efforts. They must adopt appropriate legislation, but also ensure its proper implementation; they also must make the necessary budgetary appropriations and exploit their close relationship with the electorate to engage in intelligent communication. In practical terms, that meant first and foremost effective dissemination of information through awareness-raising campaigns, particularly in

more remote regions. In order to break the vicious circle of poverty, taboo, discrimination and human rights violations, the conspiracy of silence must first be broken. The public and local communities must be involved in the definition, form and content of the communication strategies to be applied. Women parliamentarians had a particularly important role to play, for women and children were among those most affected by the disease. By networking, women could play a major part in exchanging information and working together to promote joint policy initiatives. Women were those best placed – often, alas, as a result of having been infected – to raise awareness of the need to prevent HIV/AIDS and to propose concrete measures. While individuals and the community should be given real responsibility so as to be able to exert a direct influence on their living conditions, that called for education, especially of girl children – a reminder that many countries still fell far short of achieving the development goals set by the United Nations. That was a task it was incumbent on all to address.

Mrs P DURAN (Mexico) said that millions of human beings needed the intervention of parliamentarians in order to gain access to affordable medicines and efficient health systems to alleviate the adverse effects of the pandemic. A new report by the United Nations indicated that the number of women living with HIV/AIDS had increased in all regions of the world over the past two years. At present they comprised half the 37.2 million adults living with HIV in the world, and about 60 per cent of the victims in sub-Saharan Africa. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the IPU Meetings of Women Parliamentarians, she called upon participants to implement the WHO "3 by 5" programme, and to take a special interest in prevention programmes centred on women. While it was difficult for men suffering from HIV/AIDS to be socially accepted, it was even more so for women victims. It was also vitally important to initiate an international campaign to combat stigmatisation and discrimination against people living with the disease.

Mrs A VASSILIOU (Cyprus) said that the dimensions of the pandemic destroyed the very fabric of societies and undermined the prospects for economic, social and political development. Parliamentarians had a duty to act to achieve the MDGs pertaining to

HIV/AIDS, but also to protect the human rights of those affected. The *Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights*, prepared jointly by the IPU and UNAIDS, provided a valuable guide in that regard. Equally important was the establishment of effective national and international HIV/AIDS programmes specifically tailored to the needs of the various target groups. In Cyprus, for example, despite the low prevalence of the virus, an initial strategic plan had been developed in cooperation with WHO, and a National AIDS Committee had been established, including representatives from government departments, private enterprise and civil society, while education campaigns were conducted among the population. One crucial aspect of the fight against HIV/AIDS needed to be underlined: effective campaigns could not be conducted in conditions of conflict. It was therefore the duty of parliamentarians to promote international peace and security, as well as to respect the host of international human rights instruments.

Mr J RIERA (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR) said that UNHCR's primary purpose was to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. Over the years, HIV and AIDS prevention and impact mitigation had become essential components of its overall strategy, with efforts concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2005 and 2006 its activities would expand to Asia and Eastern Europe, respectively. In June 2004 UNHCR had become a sponsor of UNAIDS. Refugees were often disproportionately vulnerable to the virus, as conflict, displacement, food insecurity and poverty increased the risk of transmission. Refugee women, adolescents and children were particularly vulnerable. Countries of asylum were ultimately responsible for the protection and well-being of people living on their soil, including refugees, yet refugees had been systematically excluded from HIV/AIDS national strategic plans in many countries, and their needs had not been addressed in proposals submitted to major donors. Furthermore, refugees were often hosted in remote and inaccessible areas, far from the cities where programmes were most developed. Yet refugees interacted with host populations on a daily basis. Therefore, not only was their exclusion from programmes discriminatory; it also undermined the effectiveness of the programmes. Improving HIV and AIDS interventions for the refugees and surrounding

host populations would invariably improve services for both communities and enhance their impact.

The link between the protection of human rights and effective HIV/AIDS programmes was obvious. People would not seek counselling, testing, treatment and care if threatened with a lack of confidentiality, discrimination, denial of access to asylum procedures or the threat of expulsion. The global community must adopt a broader approach to fighting the epidemic across international boundaries. UNHCR encouraged legislators to include refugees and all other potentially vulnerable groups in their efforts to combat and treat the disease; to ensure that refugees were not excluded as ARV therapy became more widely available in developing countries; to encourage donor governments and multilateral donor organisations to ensure that funds were used simultaneously for resident and displaced populations; to promote subregional rather than merely national approaches to address movements between countries and across borders; and to adapt HIV and AIDS programmes to local circumstances, particularly in low-resource settings.

Mrs J DE LA MATA DE PUENTE (Peru) said that the magnitude of the pandemic was leading to national emergencies, costing millions of lives and wiping out decades of hard-won economic and social progress. Accordingly, in June 2001 Peru had signed the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. Although current legislation provided for preventive measures and the treatment of persons living with HIV/AIDS, ARVs were dispensed in Peru only to pregnant women, in order to avoid mother-to-child transmission, and to newborn babies for the first six weeks after birth. After delivery, the mother received no treatment. Coverage under social insurance schemes was not universal, and in the private sector ARVs were not covered. Consequently, more than 98 per cent of persons living with HIV/AIDS in Peru did not have access to treatment. Nearly 13,000 cases had been notified by June 2002, but unreported and unidentified cases would probably multiply that figure fourfold. The population group most affected was the 20 to 39 age group, namely, those most economically active. By 1998, about US\$ 250 million in national income had been lost as a direct consequence of HIV/AIDS, and in 2000 the costs to families and the productive sector alone had been about US\$ 40 million. The Peruvian Congress was

debating a wide range of proposals with the support of experts. It had already adopted a number of laws in response to the pandemic, and was releasing budgetary funds to the public sector bodies directly concerned. The Committee should recommend the launching of a worldwide campaign to raise awareness of the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS, especially in schools, universities and the workplace, and should advocate parliamentary support for educational and preventive legislation, including laws providing for sanctions against those guilty of irresponsibly transmitting the virus.

Mr Z SANDUKA (Palestine) said that Palestine shared the concerns of the international community regarding the threat of HIV/AIDS, and called for solidarity and concerted efforts to combat the disease. However Palestine had to contend with a disease even more perfidious than HIV/AIDS, namely the devastating affliction of occupation. He called upon the Assembly to show solidarity with his people in enabling them to eradicate that insidious disease which, like HIV/AIDS, ate away at its population, undermined its national capacities and infrastructure, denied women their rights and threw its parliamentarians into prison.

Mrs K SERRANO PUIG (Cuba) said that the report constituted a valuable document to be shared by participants with their parliamentary colleagues in their home countries. As young people were among those most affected by the pandemic, it was important to work with them to increase their sense of responsibility with regard to the disease. The Cuban Government had prepared an HIV/AIDS strategy, and had had some success in slowing the spread of the virus. Only 0.03 per cent of the population was infected, and there was reason to hope that that encouraging trend could be maintained. The Cuban Government would continue to defend not only the right of all citizens to quality health care free of charge, but also the right of persons living with HIV/AIDS to protection and access to the medication they needed. Under cooperation arrangements, the Cuban Government had posted doctors in 67 countries worldwide, working either without payment or under alternative non-profit cooperation programmes – a model it would continue to provide. She also endorsed the call by the delegates from Switzerland and South Africa not to regard the disease as incurable. The

Cuban Government was devoting tireless efforts to the search for a vaccine, and that search would one day bear fruit. When a vaccine was found, all countries would benefit from it, for the Cuban Government would never use the results of its biotechnological research for monetary gain, but would place them at the service of human life.

Mr R E NAILATIKAU (Fiji), speaking also as chairman of the Pacific Parliamentary Assembly on Population and Development, said that while the official number of those suffering from HIV/AIDS in Fiji was 182, the real figure – based on WHO extrapolations – was probably more like 1,820, an alarmingly high number for a country with a population of only 800,000. The second phase of the Government's advocacy plan was now well under way, and following successful campaigns to raise awareness among the young, the middle age groups of the population were being aggressively targeted. In 2004, with generous assistance from its developed neighbours and international organisations, Fiji had hosted the first regional meeting for parliamentarians on *The role of parliamentarians in the fight against HIV/AIDS in the Pacific region*, the objectives of which had been: to brief parliamentarians on basic facts and trends and on national and regional interventions; to discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS as a wider development issue; to seek practical ways of translating political commitments into action; and to explore possibilities for cooperation between Pacific parliamentarians and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Participants had noted the need to form close alliances at all levels and involve churches and NGOs as entry points for families, with the emphasis on protection rather than on passing judgement. In the absence of a vaccine, prevention through awareness-raising, education and behaviour change was still the most effective weapon in the fight against the virus. Particular attention had been paid to the vulnerability of women and young people resulting from inadequate information, insufficient access to prevention services and inability to negotiate safer sex. HIV/AIDS needed to be linked to the broader framework of sexual and reproductive rights, going beyond the "ABC plus" approach to focus on the family and moral values. Lastly, participants had learned of the shame, isolation and stigmatisation faced by persons living with HIV/AIDS. Prevention, control and

management of the disease were everyone's business.

Mr I N ALNAGEB (Yemen) began by expressing condolences to all Catholics on the death of Pope John Paul II, who had been a truly outstanding religious leader. The HIV/AIDS pandemic was a threat to the entire world community, an insidious virus that targeted all without discrimination. Yemen had embarked on a treatment programme and was endeavouring to halt the spread of the disease by ensuring that cases did not go undetected as a result of shame or fear. However it lacked the scientific and financial resources to implement a comprehensive screening programme. Prevention campaigns were needed, and parliamentarians had a role to play in that regard. International efforts were also essential, and the wealthy nations should assist the less developed countries in their efforts, and work to find a cure to the disease. Lastly, his delegation wished to endorse the remarks by the representative of the Palestine National Council.

Mr H AL-RASHID (Bangladesh) said that although the number of cases of HIV/AIDS in Bangladesh was low compared to those in neighbouring countries, the country was highly vulnerable to the virus because of the prevalence of various forms of high-risk behaviour, such as intravenous drug injection and unprotected commercial sex, low levels of HIV/AIDS awareness, migration and sex trafficking, and gender inequalities that placed women and young girls at risk. There was an unfortunate tendency for societies faced with an HIV/AIDS epidemic to take unnecessary measures that denied individuals their human rights. The key rights to information, education, health and non-discrimination were the first to be violated. Parliaments had a duty to ensure that the principles set forth in international human rights instruments were incorporated in national policies, strategies and laws, in accordance with the revised International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. The Government of Bangladesh had an unswerving commitment to combating HIV/AIDS, and had introduced a number of prevention and treatment measures under the National AIDS and STD Programme.

Mr E ALI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Libyan judiciary was independent of the executive branch of government, and that

the Bulgarian nurses had been found guilty, in a public trial, of causing the deaths of the 470 people as a result of the outbreak. That decision had ensured that justice was served.

Mr P K BANSAL (India) said that while his delegation appreciated the concerns expressed regarding the Indian Patents Bill, it wished to point out that following the Bill's initial submission to parliament, his Government had held extensive discussions with the various political parties, as a result of which the Bill had been extensively amended. On the concern expressed regarding the "mailbox" applications, it had been agreed that manufacturers could continue to produce the drugs even after the patent was granted, on payment of a "reasonable" – as opposed to a "nominal" – royalty. None of the provisions embodied in the Act went beyond the TRIPS Agreement. Six major areas of concern had been addressed, ensuring both that the legislation was TRIPS-compliant and that medicines would be available to people worldwide, at affordable prices. The Bill had also been amended to provide that as long as the country wishing to import the drugs made a notification to that effect, a compulsory licence could be granted allowing for the production and import of drugs without the patentee being required to approve the procedure or to receive a royalty. New use would not of itself render the drug patentable. Moreover, if the licence was misused, it could be revoked. As to

objections to the granting of the patent, provision had been made for the person objecting to be heard by the authority concerned before a decision was taken. Adequate safeguards were also in place regarding pricing, a matter that would not be decided by the producers alone. He could provide a copy of the legislation in question to anyone who was interested.

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Patents Act should be posted on the IPU web site, for consultation and comment by interested Member Parliaments.

*It was so agreed.*

#### **Appointment of a drafting committee**

The PRESIDENT said that the delegations nominated to be represented on the drafting committee which would meet that morning to finalise the draft resolution were those of Belgium, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. The two co-Rapporteurs would attend the meetings *ex officio*, in an advisory capacity. She took it that that proposal was acceptable to the Committee.

*It was so agreed.*

*The meeting rose at 10 50 a m.*

### **Sitting of Thursday, 7 April** (Morning)

*The President of the Committee, Ms R Kadaga (Uganda), opened the meeting at 11 15 a m.*

#### **Preparation and adoption of a draft resolution** (C-III/112/DR-cr)

The PRESIDENT said that document C-III/112/DR-cr contained a draft resolution on the role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, submitted by the drafting committee for consideration and adoption by the Standing Committee. Once adopted, the resolution would be submitted to the Assembly at its afternoon sitting the following day. She invited the rapporteur of the drafting committee to introduce the finalised draft resolution.

Mrs D M SAURI RIANCHO (Mexico), rapporteur of the drafting committee, introducing the draft resolution, said it was the outcome of the work of the drafting committee appointed the previous day, which had been composed of members of the delegations of Belgium, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Switzerland. The drafting committee had elected Mr P Günter (Switzerland) as its President. The preliminary draft resolution prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Mrs C A Martínez (Philippines) and Mr E Tumwesigye (Uganda), had consisted of 14 preambular and 17 operative paragraphs. Eighteen countries had tabled a total of 36 amendments to the preamble and proposals for new paragraphs for it, and 80 amendments for the operative part. The drafting committee had studied each

proposal, seeking to merge some and eliminate others that were repetitive. The resulting draft resolution consisted of 27 preambular and 37 operative paragraphs. She wished particularly to single out the contribution of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, which had proposed a total of 25 amendments and new paragraphs, following the recent amendment of Assembly Rule 17.1 and Standing Committee Rule 12.2, to enable the Meeting to submit amendments incorporating a gender perspective to the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. That was an excellent way of celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians.

She singled out five issues reflected in the draft resolution: the link between poverty and the spread of the pandemic, and the urgency of compliance with the relevant MDGs; the urgency of implementing the public health safeguards provided for by the 30 August 2003 decision of the General Council of the WTO allowing members to produce and/or export pharmaceutical products needed to combat AIDS; the adoption of research and development measures for the diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS, with special emphasis on the production of vaccines; the need to provide sex education to the public, and particularly to children as part of school curriculums; and measures to guarantee the exercise of human rights by the most vulnerable sectors of the population, especially women and children, faced with discrimination as a result of the pandemic.

She then recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Committee.

Mr M AL-TAMEEM (Saudi Arabia) said that protection of the rights of persons carrying the HIV virus should not undermine the right of healthy people to be protected from acquiring the infection. If they carried the HIV virus, health workers such as doctors, nurses, paramedics and social workers in institutions and the home constituted a real risk to the people with whom they came into contact, especially in emergency situations such as accidents and disasters. Accordingly, his delegation would have preferred paragraph 27 of the draft resolution to be amended to allow compulsory screening of such persons for the HIV virus.

*The Committee took note of the comment by the representative from Saudi Arabia.*

*The draft resolution was adopted, by acclamation.*

The PRESIDENT thanked the co-Rapporteurs, Mrs C A Martínez (Philippines) and Mr E Tumwesigye (Uganda), for a job well done. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished also to take note of the report.

*It was so decided.*

### **Appointment of a Rapporteur to the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

The PRESIDENT suggested that Mrs D M Sauri Riancho (Mexico) be appointed Rapporteur of the Committee to the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

*Mrs D M Sauri Riancho (Mexico) was appointed Rapporteur, by acclamation.*

### **Preparation of the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

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

The PRESIDENT said that the Standing Committee must choose a subject item in its field of competence to be placed on its agenda for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Following consultations among the geopolitical groups, the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee had decided to propose that the item *How parliaments can and must promote effective ways of combating violence against women in all fields* be placed on the Committee's agenda for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly, to be held in Nairobi in May 2006. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the proposal was adopted.

*It was so decided.*

#### **(b) Proposals for two co-Rapporteurs**

The PRESIDENT said that the Bureau had taken note of the candidature of Mrs H Lee (Republic of Korea), who had offered to serve as a co-Rapporteur on the subject item. The Twelve Plus Group had nominated Mrs M A Martínez García (Spain) as the second co-Rapporteur. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to submit their names to the Assembly for approval at its sitting on Friday, 8 April.

*Mrs H Lee (Republic of Korea) and Mrs M A Martínez García (Spain) were approved as candidates for the posts of co-Rapporteur for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly, by acclamation*

### **Election of the Bureau of the Third Standing Committee**

The PRESIDENT said that under Committee Rule 72, the officers of the Committee were to be elected or re-elected at the first annual session of the Assembly. All the present members of the Bureau, both titular and substitute, had been elected at the 108<sup>th</sup> IPU Conference, held in Santiago de Chile in April 2003, and were therefore eligible for re-election in accordance with Rule 81. However, at that meeting it had been agreed among the six geopolitical groups that after two years – i.e., at the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly – the geopolitical group holding the presidency would fill the post of First Vice-President, and that the geopolitical group holding the first vice-presidency would fill the post of President. The African Group currently held the presidency in the Third Standing Committee, and the Asia-Pacific Group held the vice-presidency. The geopolitical groups had decided to maintain their confidence in her colleague Mr J-K Yoo and herself. If she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished Mr J-K Yoo (Republic of Korea) to serve as

President and herself, Mrs Rebecca Kadaga (Uganda), to serve as First Vice-President

*It was so decided*

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had received the candidature of Mr Z Azmy (Egypt) to serve as titular Vice-President on behalf of the Arab Group. If elected, he would replace Mr A G El Din (Egypt), who was now a member of the Pan-African Parliament and therefore no longer able to serve. The Latin American Group had submitted the candidature of Mr L Nicolini (Uruguay) to serve as substitute Vice-President, in replacement of Mrs A Joaquín Coldwell (Mexico). The Twelve Plus and Eurasia Groups had confirmed that they wished to maintain their current representatives on the Bureau of the Committee. Since there were no two candidates for the same post, if she heard no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to elect the entire Bureau by acclamation.

*It was so decided*

### **Any other business**

The PRESIDENT noted that no member of the Committee wished to raise any other matter pertaining to the functioning of the Committee.

*The session closed at 11 35 a m*

## Panel discussion on Migration and development

**Tuesday, 5 April**

(Afternoon)

*The Panel Moderator, Mr E K Gudfinnsson (Iceland), opened the discussion at 3 p m*

The MODERATOR, introducing the discussion, recalled that the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade would be discussing the subject of migration and development at the 113<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Migration encompassed many different aspects, but the current debate would focus on the integration of migrants in society. He introduced the two panellists, who would make presentations and respond to questions, in the order in which they would speak: Mr J Karlsson, Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, and Mr T Achacoso, an independent consultant and former Administrator of the Philippines Overseas Employment Administration.

Mr J KARLSSON, *Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, Panellist*, said that the Global Commission on International Migration had been established by the United Nations Secretary-General to provide the framework for the formulation of a coherent response to migration issues. The Commission was composed of 19 members from different countries and with different backgrounds. Its final report would be submitted to the Secretary-General during the United Nations General Assembly session to be held in New York in September 2005.

Using demography, development and democracy as the three main indicators, the Commission's remit had been to identify the principal reasons for migration. For example, the degree of development and employment prospects in countries of origin were powerful stimuli; at the same time, unfilled jobs in some developed countries with ageing populations and low birth rates offered attractive opportunities. In many cases, people were driven to migrate by the desire to live where the democratic framework went beyond formal democracy, and provided a genuinely free and fair society that was well governed, secure and free from conflict. An important part of the Commission's remit had been to review the

whole problem of human trafficking, in particular its effect on the growing number of women involved and on countries' development processes. Another of its tasks had been to develop a win-win strategy that would enable the shared interests of countries with ageing populations and low fertility rates and those with young workforces to be fully realised.

Migration could have a significant impact on poverty alleviation and consequently, on the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the year 2000, the remittances of overseas workers to their countries of origin had come to twice the amount of official development assistance (ODA). Between 2000 and 2005, the remittances of the Mexican diaspora had risen from less than US\$ 11 billion to US\$ 16 billion. However, remittances alone would not guarantee an increase in countries' overall well-being. India provided an excellent example of a "virtuous circle" where the economy benefited greatly not only from remittances from its citizens overseas, but also from investment, capital formation and job creation by returnees from abroad. On the other hand, Africa continued to lose the majority of its health professionals, mainly to the West, with a resultant negative impact on development. The Commission was exploring ways of encouraging the circulation of skilled workers in ways that would help eradicate poverty and increase well-being in labour-sending countries.

The most significant contribution that parliaments could make towards achieving positive outcomes from migration for the international community as a whole would be to require their government ministries to introduce coherence and coordination between their respective policies and to ensure that migration was fully integrated in those policies. For example, so long as Europe and the United States continued to subsidise their cotton industries, cotton growers from countries such as Mali and Burkina Faso, who had lost their livelihoods as a result of the effect on their own countries' economies of those foreign subsidies, would be forced to emigrate in order to find work.

Mr T ACHACOSO, *former Administrator, Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, Panellist*, said that according to international figures, the number of migrants in 2000 had been 175 million, roughly 3 per cent of the global population, of whom 86 million were migrant workers and 34 million were from developing countries. One of the most pressing international concerns was based on a growing awareness that many developed countries would face the dual problem of declining birth rates and ageing populations, while the majority of developing countries with young and growing populations would continue to remain poor and politically unstable. In the prevailing climate, the developed countries, whose demographic reality required them to bring in migrant workers, were effectively prevented from doing so by their immigration policies. Such a situation opened up new avenues for exploring win-win solutions for both labour-sending and labour-receiving countries, bearing in mind that in many developed countries birth rates had fallen low enough to generate concerns about a demographic collapse.

One key feature of the labour migration equation was its inherent bias in favour of the labour-receiving countries. However, the latter must begin to consider playing a more active role in the development of skills and qualifications in potential labour-sending countries. For example, the curriculum development and educational systems of labour-surplus economies could benefit from financial input to enable them to accommodate both domestic needs and international demand. Such financial interventions might also serve to compensate labour-sending countries for the possible negative effects of the "brain drain" on their economies. In actual fact, the World Bank had called for developed countries that recruited skilled workers from developing countries to compensate those countries for their lost investment in human capital. To address the deficit in the supply of competent workers, labour-receiving countries might have to fine tune their current immigration policies to their labour market requirements in terms of selection and admission procedures for skilled and unskilled, temporary and permanent migrants. The number of irregular migrants did not appear in official statistics, but its magnitude could be inferred from some countries' regularisation programmes. The numbers indicated that there was an imbalance between the demand for workers and the existence of policies legally

facilitating their admittance from countries eager to fill the gaps in labour markets. The efforts of some countries to control entry had resulted in migrant workers paying exorbitant fees to smugglers and traffickers. In many cases, they experienced further victimisation by the authorities in host countries who treated them as criminals for having violated their entry laws. Up till now, the numerous recommendations resulting from studies, conferences and workshops had not been translated into coherent policies.

The Philippines was one of the largest suppliers of migrant workers to the world. It was also admired for the innovative mechanisms it had developed to promote and protect the interests of its workers. He drew particular attention to the existence of national legislation designed to extend justice to aggrieved workers on their return to the Philippines, even when contractual violations might have occurred in the country of employment. It was also significant that the whole cabinet, including the President, took collective responsibility for the management of the migration programme.

In most developed countries, emphasis was placed on immigration restriction or prevention on the assumption that the socio-political and fiscal costs of immigration outweighed its benefits. International organisations such as the IPU could encourage governments to support institutional changes that would benefit migrant workers. The management of international migration should be the responsibility of both labour-sending and labour-receiving countries. The challenge for parliamentarians was to implement legislation that would provide an enabling and protective environment for the establishment of a migration framework.

### Debate

Mr S KEDIKOGLOU (Greece) observed that during the last 50 years Greece had transformed itself from a labour-sending to a labour-receiving country. Tens of thousands of Filipinos currently worked in Greece and had shown themselves not only to be fine professionals but also to be adept at integrating in Greek society in a way that left the country culturally the richer. In August 2004, Greece had hosted the Olympic Games, but the event would have been nowhere near as successful without the valuable services of the thousands of foreign workers who had helped with the preparations. The current situation was very different from that which had existed at the

time of the collapse of the communist regime in Albania. Then, Greece had been totally unprepared for the influx of migrants from Albania; however, 15 years later, thanks in part to the efforts of such migrant workers, the country's economy was far healthier. Moreover, the remittances to their families from Albanians working in Greece accounted for 10 per cent of Albania's gross domestic product (GDP). He stressed the need for countries to overcome their traditional hostility towards one another in order to promote better understanding and prevent xenophobia and racism, but also to better withstand the pressures of globalisation. Parliaments should take an active part not only in formulating relevant legislation, but also in fostering integration.

Mr J KARLSSON, *Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, Panellist*, said that in the future all countries seemed likely to become both labour-sending and labour-receiving to a varying degree. He was concerned at the use of the words "skilled" and "unskilled" with reference to workers, and suggested "needed" as a more acceptable alternative. The reason that migration issues sometimes occasioned open resentment and unrest was because most countries lacked effective leadership either at the parliamentary or the grass-roots level. The vast majority of any population was comparatively indifferent towards migration, so with effective leadership from their parliamentarians people could be brought to accept migration as an integral part of the society in which they lived.

Mr P K BANSAL (India) said that the current issues relating to migration posed many challenging problems which the international community needed to address. For the majority of developing countries human resources constituted their main asset. In 2004, approximately half a million people had been granted clearance by the Indian authorities to go abroad to work. But even though his country might derive considerable benefit from the remittances of its migrant workers, its development was equally if not more dependent on the return of many of those who had gone abroad, as they would bring with them the valuable expertise and skills they had acquired. It was therefore important for the international community to devise ways of facilitating the free flow of people between countries while minimising the possible negative consequences, such as social tension.

Mr A MEALE (United Kingdom) said that there were likely to be dramatic changes in demographic patterns in the future as a result of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and global warming. He asked the panellists whether they were able to estimate the amount of time that remained for the international community to implement the necessary bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to stamp out xenophobia and prevent governments from acting dishonestly, before it was too late.

Mr T ACHACOSO, *former Administrator, Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, Panellist*, said that many years had elapsed since some countries had published demographic estimates that were based on ageing populations and falling fertility rates. However, their response had been to try to resolve the problems without bringing in migrant workers, for example through technological means, such as transferring labour-intensive manufacturing industries to labour-surplus economies, or increasing productivity through the use of robotics, as in the case of Japan. Several European countries, including the United Kingdom and France, had recently acknowledged the pressing need to review their immigration policies to enable industries to recruit more easily from labour-sending countries. Up till now, the tendency had been for labour-receiving countries to fill certain jobs by effectively using the covert services of human smugglers and traffickers, and by regularising the situation of the trafficked workers at a later stage. With respect to the time left for countries to take action, the demographers' forecasts indicated that it was already too late.

Mr J KARLSSON, *Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, Panellist*, responding to the remarks of the delegate from India, acknowledged the damaging effects of creeping globalisation and of countries losing educated personnel. Many African countries were facing a catastrophic situation in their health systems caused by the loss of health professionals either to other countries or as victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. An immediate response was therefore required. In the case of India, its strong educational tradition and the tendency for many of its diaspora to return made it well qualified to exercise leadership. However, it would be unwise to impose restrictions on citizens who wished to work abroad, as to do so would amount to an infringement of their

human rights. He agreed with Mr Achacoso that very little time remained in which to make up for earlier inactivity in devising effective immigration policies.

Mr C KAKAZU (Japan) said that it was his Government's intention to halve the number of people entering Japan illegally or overstaying their visas by 2008. He believed that exchanging information with the relevant bodies in other countries and enhancing measures to control altered or forged documents were effective short-term measures. In addition, the Japanese authorities were taking stricter action against both illegal workers and those who illicitly employed them, improving the efficiency of deportation procedures and providing assistance to those who had overstayed their visas so as to enable them to return to their countries of origin if they so wished. The Japanese authorities recognised that some of the illegal immigrants were the victims of organised criminal gangs and that women and children, in particular, often suffered severe psychological and even physical damage as a result of their experiences, from which some never fully recovered. In 2004, Japan had therefore implemented an action plan to deal with human trafficking in order to eradicate the practice and protect the victims. Frequently, the victims were women who entered the country on so-called entertainment visas but who in practice were forced to work as prostitutes or in other branches of the sex industry. The Japanese authorities' response had been to step up their immigration controls and to impose heavier penalties on employers and brokers. Assistance was also provided to the victims to enable them to return to their countries of origin, and special centres had been set up to care for women and children.

Parliamentarians should put pressure on their governments to take the necessary steps to prevent all such abuses of peoples' human rights. Perhaps the panellists could outline the role they envisaged for international organisations, private shelters and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in providing better protection for women and children.

Mr M ELFIRJANI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) pointed out that in addition to labour-sending and labour-receiving countries, there were transit countries which fulfilled an important function and should be recognised in the development of future migration strategies. Moreover, such strategies should take account

of the economic difficulties of the labour-sending countries, in order to achieve a genuinely level playing field for all concerned. An abatement of the migratory flows through the North African countries could only be achieved if the international community carried out the necessary measures to create employment, possibly through the establishment of service industries, in the countries of origin. The problems currently associated with migration could not be solved by simply increasing security. A far more effective solution would be to make the necessary investment in the countries of origin so that their people would not feel constrained to leave.

Mr J KARLSSON, *Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, Panellist*, responding to the representative from Japan, said that it was important to attack the root causes of trafficking and to ensure that it was the real perpetrators rather than the victims who bore the brunt of the control measures. To that end, the Commission would recommend the reinforcement of international collaboration to combat human trafficking. Private shelters and NGOs played an important role in providing protection for women and children who might otherwise be sent back to an uncertain fate in their countries of origin.

Replying to the delegate from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, he said that more good would come from fully implementing the existing international conventions than from drawing up new ones. One of the Commission's tasks was to act as a watchdog to ensure that the signatory countries carried out their promises. Countries on both sides of the Mediterranean had a shared responsibility for resolving migration issues. While the European countries must ensure that the problem of irregular immigration was adequately tackled, the labour-sending and transit countries must do everything possible to create the conditions necessary to encourage their people to stay. The current situation was redolent of shared hypocrisy.

Mr T ACHACOSO, *former Administrator, Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, Panellist*, said that he had deliberately excluded transit countries from his opening statement because of the contradiction that existed between the freedom of migrant workers to leave the labour-sending countries and the absence of any corresponding arrangement in the labour-

receiving countries to accept them. The shared responsibility of both labour-receiving and labour-sending countries, to which Mr Karlsson had referred, had to be addressed, because at present countries' migration policies did not always reflect their true labour market conditions. The fact that very few irregular immigrants were jobless was a reflection of the policies of host countries. The law of supply and demand played a critical role in migration patterns, and the situation could not be controlled exclusively through the introduction of increasingly repressive measures, such as those suggested by the representative from Japan. The way in which the Japanese authorities had dealt with seafarers and other workers in the past had led many migrant workers to enter Japan through the back door, which made it more difficult to protect those concerned. Hence, he called on the Government of Japan to seriously review its current methods of dealing with migrant workers from the Philippines, particularly those entering on entertainment visas, because the current repressive measures would force many of them to enter illegally in the future, and thereby forgo the protection to which they would otherwise have recourse in accordance with the policies of the Governments of the Philippines and Japan.

Mr T SAAD (Tunisia) said that in the past Tunisia had experienced significant labour migration. However, nowadays it was seeing many of its well educated young people with good qualifications leaving the country to work in Europe. Mr Achacoso had mentioned the possibility of the developed countries contributing towards education and training in labour-sending countries. However, there was a danger that that would merely exacerbate the brain drain. He was in favour of the labour-receiving countries providing development assistance only if it was spent on training people who would be likely to remain in their countries of origin. He could not agree with Mr Karlsson's reference to shared hypocrisy. Taking as an example the partnership agreements between developing countries such as his own and the European Union (EU), he pointed out that whereas they were explicit about the free movement of goods between partners, little mention was made of the free movement of people.

Ms C KEAVENEY (Ireland) observed that for many years Ireland had also been a labour-

sending country. But now people were flocking there either as migrant workers or refugees. With regard to xenophobia, she recalled the recent public outcry in Ireland over the threatened deportation of a number of people whose applications for refugee status had been rejected; as a result of that protest, they had been allowed to stay. The key ingredient in that outcome had been education and the way in which it enabled children of different cultures to become acquainted. Education and sport were better antidotes to xenophobia than the law. She represented a section of the community that was in the process of losing many of its textile jobs to other countries, including Morocco and China. That raised the problem of how to help the people who had lost their jobs but did not wish to retrain for more demanding types of employment, such as those in information technology. The role of parliaments to prepare for the transition of people coming into countries was important; it was also important in terms of recognition of qualifications. She asked how the Philippines was coping with the loss of its health professionals. Countries needed to improve the way in which they dealt with cross-border issues.

Mrs L A P ROSALES (Philippines) said that the Philippines was a signatory to the United Nations International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and had passed its own legislation to protect the rights of its migrant workers. However, much still needed to be done. She asked the panellists whether any reliable information was available on the social cost of migration in terms of broken marriages and children separated from mothers who worked abroad, and who in many cases ended up as street children. At least migrant workers from the Philippines had the support of their parliament. The Philippines was also a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which it and other South-East Asian countries had recourse to resolve problems relating to immigrants. However, no such accommodation was possible in the case of Myanmar, even though it was a member of ASEAN, because it did not have a parliament. The situation in Myanmar was giving growing cause for concern, as the number of refugees fleeing over the border into neighbouring countries had increased steadily. She asked the panellists whether in their opinion it would not be inappropriate, therefore, for Myanmar to

assume the presidency of ASEAN in 2006 so long as the current conditions prevailed

Mr C SOGOR (Romania), referring to the forthcoming report of the Global Commission on International Migration, asked the panellists to outline the role foreseen for parliamentarians in implementing its recommendations, and requested clarification regarding the choice of priorities for inter-parliamentary cooperation

Mr T ACHACOSO, *former Administrator, Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, Panellist*, responding to the delegate from Tunisia, said that it should be borne in mind that not everyone wished to migrate, and that developing countries should take that into account when formulating development policies. A recent study he had carried out in Pakistan had revealed that to create one new job locally would require approximately US\$ 100,000 in foreign investment. To create 10,000 new jobs would therefore require approximately one billion dollars. The reality was that millions of Pakistanis were without work. In view of the concomitant decline in ODA, developing countries should be taking steps to ensure that their economic environments were attractive to foreign investors. With regard to the provision of assistance to labour-sending countries to mitigate the negative effects of the brain drain, he had merely been reiterating suggestions that had been put forward by several United Nations bodies over the past three decades, but which had not been acted on because of the cold war. On the basis of its research, the World Bank had also proposed that compensatory levies should be raised from countries that hired workers from labour-sending countries. The intention was not to encourage migration, but given the decline in foreign investment and ODA, all countries might have to start looking at the migration equation from a totally different perspective.

Responding to the question from the representative from Ireland about the effect on the Philippines of the loss of its health professionals, he said that the problem mainly affected nursing staff. Trained nurses were in such demand abroad that many doctors were re-training as nurses, and new nursing schools were being established.

Replying to the delegate from the Philippines, he said that a recent study conducted by an NGO had shown that the social cost of migration might not be as severe as had previously been feared in terms of its

effect on family life. However, migration could no longer be classified as a minor issue, and it should therefore be given the prominence it merited in national development policies and plans.

Mr J KARLSSON, *Co-Chair of the Global Commission on International Migration, Panellist*, said that although to leave one's country was a human right, there was no corresponding right to enter other countries. The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees provided one notable exception, in that all the signatories had a duty to allow entry to anyone seeking sanctuary.

Replying to the delegate from Tunisia, he said that he understood the frustration felt by countries that had invested heavily in educating their young people only to have them leave the country. But it would be very difficult to keep track of migrants' movements in order to establish which country should pay compensation. Although everyone should have the right to move, the economies of the countries of origin should not be allowed to collapse. Developing countries would do well to follow India's example and concentrate on developing their education systems. The rich countries must also play their part by fulfilling their commitment to contribute 0.7 per cent of their GDP to ODA. The recipient countries should then ensure that the bulk of that assistance was spent on education and health.

Responding to the delegate from Ireland, he highlighted the positive effect that regional collaboration in the form of EU structural funding had had in transforming Ireland from a labour-sending to a labour-receiving country. In that respect, the EU represented a very important example of the effectiveness of solidarity between richer and poorer countries. He strongly agreed that education was a far more effective way of combating xenophobia than the law.

Turning to the intervention of the representative from the Philippines, he explained that because of the difficulties involved, it was impossible to measure the true social cost of migration. Undoubtedly, migration was detrimental to social cohesion, but it would not be an acceptable alternative to deprive people of the right to earn a living abroad. Hence, it was incumbent on the governments of the developing countries to do their best to ensure that the help provided by migrants extended beyond mere remittances, as had occurred in the case of India. On the subject of Myanmar, he said that it was

impossible to guarantee the universal protection of human rights without an open, transparent and democratic political system, and the Commission would be making that plain in its report

Replying to the representative from Romania, he said that one of the most important roles for parliamentarians was to exercise strong leadership in combating xenophobia. Governments would be more likely to integrate migration in their development policies if the different ministries were required to report on their respective

actions to their parliaments. There needed to be far more effective coordination within the political systems of all countries.

The PRESIDENT thanked the panellists for their excellent presentations and clear answers to complex questions. The delegations that had wished to participate in the discussion but had been prevented by time constraints would have a chance to do so during the 113<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

*The meeting closed at 4 45 p m*

## Panel discussion on *Violence against women and children in armed conflict situations*

**Wednesday, 6 April**

(Morning)

*Mrs P Cayetano (Philippines), Moderator, opened the panel discussion by introducing the panellists, and invited them to address the participants*

Ms A ARRIAGA (Amnesty International), *Panellist*, said that Amnesty International had witnessed the horror and devastation affecting vast numbers of people in conflict zones around the world. In her overview, she related an account of physical, psychological and sexual abuse of a young girl, which included abduction and gang rape. Unfortunately, that story exemplified the suffering of vulnerable groups in many regions of the world, and similar cases were commonplace.

The entire international community could play a role in addressing sexual violence against women and children; parliamentarians, in particular, had a special responsibility to provide leadership. In the eyes of a victim, it made no difference who perpetrated the crime or which international instrument had been violated. What mattered was the suffering and fear that accompanied such abuse.

Violence against women was a human rights scandal whose effects were universal. It was the most pervasive and ignored human rights violation. Statistics for discrimination and gender-based violence in conflicts and post-conflict situations were staggering, with women and children forming the majority of civilian populations killed in war.

In seeking to reverse that alarming trend, it was vital to deal with the factors that contributed to violence and abuse. Discrimination was one of the root causes, but violence against women in armed conflict situations was also largely based on traditional values that viewed women as property and sexual objects. Children were subjected to various forms of abuse: either forced into service as soldiers, living in poverty, exposed to disease and infection, or broken by the psychological and physical duress of armed conflict. In any event, the effects of sexual violence were often lifelong, and included chronic medical problems, psychological damage, forced pregnancy, infertility, stigmatisation, and social rejection.

Some of the major issues in need of attention included rape and assault, human trafficking, displacement of persons, and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Child soldiering, economic hardships, domestic violence and the under-reporting of abuse were also important areas for greater focus.

Women must be full and equal participants in all aspects of peace-building since it was vital that the issues that had a direct impact on women and children should be tackled during the critical period of reconstruction.

Amnesty International had launched a major campaign to combat violence against women, and had issued specific recommendations for parliaments, governments and international organisations, calling on them to ensure respect for fundamental rights. There was an urgent need for treaty ratification, without reservations, and the effective implementation of the rich body of existing international instruments.

Beyond international treaties, however, impunity was an area of concern. Violence and abuse would persist until perpetrators were held accountable under international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, and domestic legislation. Underscoring the main factors leading to impunity, she pointed out that lawmakers could have a positive impact in removing the legislative barriers to the prosecution of war crimes.

Parliamentarians had a responsibility to secure legislative reform and to facilitate the implementation of laws and policies that ensured equal rights for women, particularly with respect to laws on property rights, access to employment and health care services, education, citizenship and marriage rights.

In its unique position, the IPU should serve as a clearinghouse for information on good practices for governments, and should facilitate legal reform for the promotion of respect for the human rights of women and children. The IPU should also continue to cooperate with international organisations and mechanisms, and should provide advice on legal reform and policy implementation, in support of women and children.

Mr T KARALLIYADDA (Sri Lanka), *Panellist*, speaking on the impact and indirect consequences of armed conflicts on women and children, said that Sri Lanka had endured more than 20 years of civil strife. Despite the conclusion of a ceasefire agreement, fighting had continued, and women and children were terrorised and being forcibly recruited by insurgents. War widows and their families lived with severe economic hardship, and were plagued by psychological trauma and a lack of empowerment.

As a member of parliament for a constituency near the area affected by internal conflict, he had witnessed the living conditions of over one million refugees and displaced persons. Women were exposed to abuse, rape and extortion; the education of children was disrupted and the poor state of health care and sanitation facilities encouraged the spread of infectious diseases.

It was estimated that the actual number of casualties from landmine explosions was between 15,000 and 20,000 worldwide every year, with children constituting a significant proportion of the victims. Survivors of landmine accidents had difficulties in receiving adequate health care and suffered from reduced mobility. The social ostracism of landmine survivors was particularly damaging to women and children, since it robbed them of opportunities to participate constructively in the life of their communities, thereby depriving them of prospects for rehabilitation.

The Government of Sri Lanka had instituted a pension for war widows that provided generous financial support. However, there were still many widows who had no form of economic assistance, and were driven to prostitution. It was important for survivors of armed conflict to be resettled in an environment that was unaffected by unrest and that offered employment prospects, and where counselling and emotional support were provided.

A comprehensive database on refugees and displaced persons was needed to support institutional capacity-building. Furthermore, humanitarian relief should focus on improving sustainability and the empowerment of groups affected by conflict.

Mrs I LUNDBERG (Sweden), *Panellist*, said that sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons, especially women and children, deserved a response from legislators worldwide. The curtailment of exploitation and trafficking required action in the victims' countries of

origin, transit countries, and countries of final destination. It was futile for any country or region to attempt to act single-handedly in dealing with the phenomenon. Cross-border cooperation between governments, international agencies and civil society was therefore necessary.

There was a need to resolve the issues that led to trafficking and prostitution of women and children, and to criminalize the purchase of sexual favours, along with the traffickers and procurers responsible for such exploitation, and not the victims. In an effort to curb demand, the parliament of Sweden had successfully enacted legislation to that effect, recognizing sexual exploitation and prostitution of women and children as a serious form of violence.

A 2003 United Nations bulletin on conduct had imposed a strict prohibition on the purchase of sex. Stringent measures had been established for delinquent United Nations peacekeeping and other personnel. Since the United Nations did not have the authority to prosecute military and police personnel employed by Member States, troop-contributing countries should ensure that they had reliable domestic legislation in place to deal with their offending nationals, so as to prevent impunity and hold offenders accountable under domestic law.

The bulletin had also highlighted the need for international peacekeeping and military personnel to be trained in gender equality issues, including those related to violence against women and children. Along with such measures, an increase in the number of women serving in military and peacekeeping operations would substantially improve the situation for women and children in conflict zones.

The search for lasting solutions must begin with the identification and elimination of the root causes of the problem. Poverty, the persistence of values that encouraged the subordination of women and children and inadequate protection of human rights provided an ideal breeding ground for the exploitation of those vulnerable groups. Economic desperation and the low status of women and girls forced them into prostitution because they truly lacked reasonable alternatives for social advancement.

The existence of an elastic local market for prostitution was another prerequisite for trafficking. Supply expanded to meet the demand for women and children for sexual purposes. Paragraph 5 of article 9 of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially

Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, called on States parties to adopt legislative or educational, social or cultural measures to discourage the demand that fostered exploitation. The international community must make a commitment to the elimination of prostitution and trafficking through the building of societies based on gender equality and human dignity. At the domestic level, parliaments must take responsibility to redress social imbalances.

Mrs I KAYUMBA (Rwanda), *Panellist*, recalled that the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 had led to the landmark conviction of rape as a war crime, but rape in the Rwandan context was also a component of genocide. She gave examples of horrific acts of sexual violence to which thousands of women, mainly of Tutsi ethnicity, had been subjected. Years before the actual genocide had commenced, a propaganda campaign against Tutsis had been launched, attacking the dignity of their women in particular, as a prelude to genocide.

Although the precise statistics on the number of victims might never be known, it was hoped that, in due course, the survivors would gain the courage to relate testimonies of the events that had transpired during the months of massacre and sexual violence. Some accounts had suggested the scope of the brutality to which Rwandan women of all ages had been subjected: repeated group rapes, forced incestual rape, sexual slavery and sexual mutilation carried out by armed groups and officials in position of influence. It was their habit to kill the victims after prolonged periods of sexual violence, but the perpetrators also used the strategy of allowing the victims to languish in psychological suffering and trauma. Another form of sexual violence that confronted Rwandans was the offence of paedophilia.

The immense challenge of bringing the guilty parties to justice had revealed the weaknesses in existing legislation. Before the genocide, Rwanda had acceded the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide but, because its provisions had not been incorporated into national law, it was difficult to punish such crimes on that basis. In 1996, the Rwandan parliament had enacted Organic Law No 8/96 on the Prosecutions for Offences Constituting the Crime of Genocide or Crimes against Humanity that provided punishment for crimes of genocide. It soon became apparent,

however, that there were no adequate mechanisms to deal with the trial of accused offenders. The *gacacas* (people's courts) had been established in an attempt to restore community justice, truth and reconciliation, in an effort to prevent impunity. Under that system, victims of sexual violence and genocide could lodge complaints, with the assurance that their identity would not be revealed. Much depended on the willingness of witnesses to present information that could be useful in the pursuit of justice. Their willingness hinged on the success of efforts to sensitise the Rwandan people to the issues at stake, and also on the ability of the Government to protect the confidentiality of victims. Stigmatisation, ostracism and reprisals were potential consequences for persons who provided key evidence against war criminals.

The prevention of sexual violence could be vastly enhanced by laws that established rape as a punishable offence. Existing legislation to that effect should be updated to ensure that penalties corresponded to the gravity of the crimes in question.

Mrs E JOHNSON SIRLEAF, *Chairperson of the Governance Reform Commission, Panellist*, recalled that the historic Third World Conference on Women, held in 1985 in Nairobi, and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 10 years later, had encouraged States to formulate national plans of action aimed at giving women a more significant role in societies, consistent with the specificities of national cultures and conditions.

The outbreak of conflicts that increased the vulnerability of women and children had led the Security Council to adopt resolution 1325 (2000) calling for the protection of women in conflict and the promotion of peace. Two major reports had been issued to draw attention to the impact of conflict on women and children as a result of the inability or unwillingness of States to protect them. She herself had been involved in the preparation of one such report that analysed the experiences of women in conflict, based on interviews conducted in 12 countries.

Working through civil society, women and children had bravely attempted to counter the silence of their suffering, and to raise awareness of the need for action. Despite those efforts, much remained to be done. The call for international action at the highest level within the United Nations had stirred Member States, civil society and other relevant actors to renew

their commitment to the equal participation of women in efforts to build sustainable peace and security

Referring to Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations, which discouraged the diversion of human and economic resources for armaments, she called on parliamentarians to exercise their influence in legislative and budgetary processes to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to the protection of women against violence, and to empower them to achieve their full potential. Parliamentarians should pursue the implementation of the United Nations gender parity policy to ensure an increase in the proportion of women in key positions.

At the national level, parliaments should sharpen their focus on national reconstruction and renewal through dialogue, and engage women's groups in the promotion of gender equality in peace processes. It was crucially important to end the recruitment of child soldiers, and to harness the experience of child victims in the formulating of laws for their protection.

### **General discussion**

*The Moderator invited delegates to comment on the issues raised by the panellists*

Dame Marion ROE (United Kingdom) shared the concern that even after the cessation of hostilities, women often remained targets of sexual violence, including at the hands of peacekeeping troops. Did the training of prospective peacekeepers adequately prepare them for their duty to protect vulnerable groups?

Apart from the emotional and psychological trauma, children in conflict situations were also exposed to serious health risks. What initiatives had been taken to mitigate the health consequences of conflict situations? She enquired about the success of the "Days of Tranquillity" campaign, launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in which combatants observed a period of ceasefire to allow the delivery of immunisation and other health care services to children in regions affected by conflict.

Mr Y PETERMANN (International Committee of the Red Cross - ICRC) said that failures in the protection of human rights were not necessarily attributable to a lack of legal standards, but often to a lack of political will on the part of States to fulfil the requirement to

incorporate international standards into domestic legislation. In that regard, he agreed on the importance of establishing systems that enabled the implementation of standards to protect all parties in conflict situations. Existing international instruments could facilitate the prosecution of criminals only if States honoured their commitments to implement conventions and took the necessary steps to follow through on decisions.

Mrs H LEE (Republic of Korea) said that thousands of women and girls from various Asian countries had been subjected to sexual slavery as "comfort women" by the Japanese army during the Second World War. Repeated efforts to secure an official apology, and international appeals for the Japanese Government to assume legal responsibility and provide financial compensation for the pain, humiliation and psychological trauma of the sexual brutality suffered by those women, had been ignored.

Redressing the injustice of those crimes was a matter of conscience. As the second largest economy in the world, Japan's failure to win the confidence of the international community would hamper efforts to consolidate its position as a world leader. She therefore urged the Japanese Government to take due responsibility for past actions. She further stressed the need for cooperation among States and IPU action, to address the plight of women in conflict situations.

Mr R BIAZON (Philippines) said that in 30 years of service as a professional soldier, the most painful experience he had encountered had been confronting child soldiers in battle. Although most States had adopted legislation against the recruitment of children, revolutionary groups did not adhere to that principle. He wondered how the international community could persuade revolutionaries not to involve children in combat, and further suggested that external donors supporting groups participating in armed struggle might consider to what extent their supply of resources fuelled that practice.

Mrs P SITHAMPARANATHAN (Sri Lanka) said that the forceful recruitment of women as soldiers in Sri Lanka had continued because of the fragility of the peace process. Children who failed in school, particularly from the poorer strata, were targeted for recruitment, but also a number of children had been successfully returned to their families, through

the auspices of UNICEF Distrust of the Sri Lankan Government and fear of retribution had created an atmosphere of collective trauma among the population, especially in women She hoped it would be possible for the warring factions to be peacefully reconciled, and that women would be empowered to achieve full social and political participation

*Mrs E Johnson Sirleaf, Chairperson of the Governance Reform Commission, Panellist, took the Chair*

Ms K ANDERSEN (Norway) stressed that it was a major problem that powerful, seemingly democratic States continued to flout international law She appealed to donor countries to give priority to UNICEF and other bodies supporting child protection, and urged recipient countries to establish programmes for that purpose

There had been distressing reports of violence committed against women and children in Burma While it was gratifying that an appeal by the IPU had received the attention of the United Nations in October 2004, the fact that the Burmese authorities continued to ignore United Nations findings and recommendations was a cause for concern

Mrs E ISHIGE (Japan), in response to the statement made by the representative from the Republic of Korea, said that in 1965 the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea had signed a bilateral treaty on a number of basic questions However, as the representative from the Republic of Korea had pointed out, the issue of "comfort women", among others, remained A fund had been established in 1995 to deal with those issues More recently, the opposition in the Japanese Diet had tabled a bill to promote compensation for the sexual exploitation endured by those women She was hopeful that those measures would improve bilateral relations between the two countries

With regard to the general discussion of violence against women and children in situations of conflict, she drew attention to the extremely high death toll incurred by anti-personnel mines, and lamented the accounts of ethnic cleansing, sexual slavery, child soldiering and poor conditions of refugees given by previous speakers She wished to know how individual States and parliaments could effectively apply existing legislation on international humanitarian law to those problems For its part, the Government of

Japan had elaborated a plan to use official development assistance for the protection of women and children

*The Moderator resumed the Chair*

Mrs S MAHAJAN (India) said that States should take urgent action at the national level to put an end to the suffering of women and children In India, provincial and national women's commissions had been established to boost the participation of women in decision-making and governance In addition, the Constitution guaranteed a 33 per cent representation of women in local bodies and provided a basic framework for the respect for women's rights Extreme vigilance was necessary for all States to ensure that women achieved their full potential on the path towards empowerment

Mrs G QELINI (Egypt) alerted participants to the risk of confusing the issues of international humanitarian law and domestic violence She agreed it was worrying that even after States had undertaken international commitments, there remained huge gaps between their laws and the attitudes and behaviour displayed towards women, a discrepancy that existed in both the developed and the developing world

In order to counteract negative trends and bolster the capacity of States to enforce the provisions of international instruments, she believed that parliamentarians should propose robust mechanisms to implement those agreements They should raise public awareness on basic rights and allocate adequate funds for educational systems to include sensitisation to women's rights

Mrs E O DAPAAH (Ghana) said that in 1979, her country had experienced grave atrocities committed against women under a military regime that had staged a coup d'état Even today, women remained soft targets for various forms of abuse Although the country's Constitution, legislation and institutional mechanisms afforded protection and redress, women in rural communities were not aware of such provisions There was a need to improve the flow of information to remote areas so that women and children could become aware of their constitutional rights

She hoped fellow parliamentarians would bring pressure to bear on governments, especially in developing countries, to promote national unity above tribal affiliation

Ms TERESA KOK SUH SIM (Malaysia) drew attention to highlight the oppression of the women of Burma, who were subjected to sexual exploitation, trafficking, and abduction. Although it usually adhered to a policy of non-interference in the domestic affairs of member States, given the situation in Burma, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) opposed the prospect that Burma would assume the chairmanship of the Association in 2006. A number of Asian countries had formed a pro-democracy caucus in an attempt to exert influence on the military regime in Burma. She informed the participants of the circulation of a petition for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and said that a press conference on the situation in Burma had been planned during the Assembly. The international community must provide its support to hasten reform and change in Burma.

Mr M AL WAHAB (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the situation facing women and children in conflict situations was extremely serious. The abuses committed by occupying forces, for example in Iraq and Palestine, represented gross violations of human rights. The current discussions would help to identify the means by which parliamentarians could urge governments to promote respect for human rights, and thereby respect the provisions of all international human rights instruments, including the Beijing Platform for Action.

Ms S RASUL (Philippines) fully endorsed the views expressed by the representatives from Sweden and Liberia with regard to the criminalisation of paid sex and the need to relieve women from the burden of suffering in times of conflict. She explained the strategy adopted in the Philippines to curb prostitution and to address its root causes. The Philippines had successfully implemented strategies to establish a gender and development budget with the aim of training women in peace promotion and conflict resolution skills.

Mr J LAAKSO (Finland) welcomed the fact that a list of international agreements and conventions had been prepared for the discussion. However, it would also be useful to list the countries that had not adhered to those agreements so that participants could be fully aware of their governments' performance with respect to their international obligations. Parliamentarians should endeavour to promote the ratification and signature of international

agreements as basic instruments for change. In deciding on future venues for its Assembly, the IPU should give preference to countries with a favourable track record in terms of treaty ratification.

With regard to the training and discipline of peacekeeping troops, he said that in Finland, a country which had made major contributions to peacekeeping operations, clear guidelines had been issued to troops, stipulating that the purchase of sexual favours was strictly forbidden and was punishable by dismissal.

Mr A AL-TURKI (Saudi Arabia) shared the view that the elimination of violence against women and children, despite the adoption of a large body of international instruments, required greater initiative, increased political will and effective measures for the implementation of agreements and punishment of violations.

Mrs J ERIYO (Uganda) outlined the consequences of the tragedy of violence against women and children during situations of internal conflict. However, she also described the desperation of women, girls and children and the long-lasting effects of trauma and humiliation. States should boost their efforts to empower their citizens, address the legislative issues to characterise offences as such, and devise correspondingly severe penalties. The proliferation of small arms and cross-border trafficking of weapons deserved far greater attention.

Mr P LECLERC (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – UNHCR), commenting on the protection of victims of violence through the granting of safe asylum and refugee status, highlighted the need for States to ratify all international legal instruments on refugees, including the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. A number of States denied asylum to certain categories of refugees who were often precisely the groups that were in greatest need of care. Priority should be given to the treatment of post-conflict trauma in women and children through activities led by civil society and government bodies in the refugees' host countries.

Ms C KEAVENEY (Ireland) enquired about the mechanisms used by the Government of Sweden to prioritise the use of resources in its efforts to enforce legislation aimed at curbing demand for paid sexual

favours. She also raised the issues of intimidation and blackmail that prevented women from reporting human rights abuses and exploitation, and suggested that it was time for women and men to take the bold step to reveal the identities of perpetrators of violence against women and children.

Mr Z SANDUKA (Palestine) said that the horrors of violence were a stark reality for the Palestinian people. The action of the occupying Israeli forces had profoundly negative physical and psychological consequences on all facets of the daily life of Palestinians. Women and children endured military bombardment and witnessed the murder and humiliation of loved ones. The loss of male family members, who were often the breadwinners, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods had serious economic consequences. He therefore appealed to his fellow parliamentarians to harness their empathy for the plight of the Palestinian people and to convey those concerns to their respective governments.

Mrs M MENSAH-WILLIAMS (Namibia) said that it was time for parliamentarians to ensure that laws on the trafficking of persons, child labour, rape and other forms of exploitation were effectively enforced. The ninth preambular paragraph of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) addressed specialised training for peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations. The IPU and UNICEF should ensure the implementation of that resolution and establish a database on relevant issues. She supported the call for women soldiers to be trained for peacekeeping duty in war-torn areas, as women in distress might thus be encouraged to confide in them and report the crimes committed against them.

Mrs S MOULENGUI MOUELE (Gabon) said that the issues under discussion concerned the entire international community, even countries that did not have a direct experience of conflict. In reference to the long-term consequences of war and displacement, she said the increased risk of criminality and anti-social behaviour in host countries should not be ignored.

Mrs N AKHAVAN BITARAFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the international community should address both the effects and

the root causes of violence against women and children, including sexual exploitation. Parliamentarians should ensure close monitoring of human rights standards and provide guarantees for the implementation of laws and regulations in times of conflict and in peacetime. She described the suffering of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and emphasised that the principles of international law must be respected. More than ever, unilateralism must be rejected.

Mrs S AL-MASRI (Jordan) provided statistics from 2004 describing the scope of the problems faced by Palestinians in the territories occupied by Israel. Assassinations, physical abuse were rife, and the losses incurred owing to the destruction and confiscation of property and agricultural lands had been estimated at approximately 100 million dollars to the Palestinian economy. In addition, about 70 per cent of Palestinians lived below the poverty line. She lamented the fact that in spite of resolutions calling for the cessation of violence and the establishment of settlements, the Israeli authorities had commenced construction of new settlements in East Jerusalem that would have the effect of separating Jerusalem from the West Bank. Delegates should follow up on the implementation of resolutions on the Middle East situation in order to bring about a just and lasting peace.

*The Moderator invited panellists to respond to the delegates' statements and queries.*

Ms A ARRIAGA (Amnesty International), *Panellist*, said that she was pleased by the many thoughtful comments and by the acknowledgement by parliamentarians of their potential role in effecting positive change. She proposed a number of specific recommendations to that end, urging them to assume their responsibility to legislate, implement and allocate budgets to support civil society.

Mr T KARALLIYADDA (Sri Lanka), *Panellist*, focused his comments on the issue of child soldiers and approaches to be taken to stop the recruitment of children. He also supported the view that there was need for an international commitment for the implementation of national programmes to provide shelter, employment and security to women affected by war and violence.

Mrs I LUNDBERG (Sweden), *Panellist*, said that the debate was valuable in many respects, and that she appreciated the interest shown in the legislative measures adopted by the Swedish parliament. Laws could indeed influence attitudes, as had occurred in Sweden, after the Government introduced penalties for the purchase of sexual favours. There had originally been much controversy, but Swedish society had been sensitised to the scope of the issue, and had largely accepted the need for such legislation.

Mrs I KAYUMBA (Rwanda), *Panellist*, stressed the importance of establishing national laws, and mechanisms for their implementation. In Rwanda, the early attempts to punish the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide without adequate legislative mechanisms for the punishment of war crimes had proved a frustrating experience.

Mrs E JOHNSON SIRLEAF, *Chairperson of the Governance Reform Commission, Panellist*, underscored the consensus on the need for greater political will to ensure that existing international standards were effectively implemented. She urged parliamentarians to be bold in the allocation of resources to support international programmes aimed at providing protection for women and children.

Mrs P SHIFMAN (United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF), in response to the query concerning the Days of Tranquillity campaign, reiterated the commitment of

UNICEF to ensure the delivery of immunisation services to children in conflict zones. As regards the training of peacekeepers, she echoed the sentiments of previous speakers to the effect that peacekeepers must be held accountable for their actions and must understand their role as protectors. She also stressed the need for the establishment of rules as a step towards influencing the attitude of societies towards women.

UNICEF welcomed the specific recommendations made by the participants and looked forward to further cooperation with the IPU and parliamentarians worldwide in the implementation of those recommendations, which were aimed at improving the situation of women and children and offering them an opportunity for a life of dignity and equality.

The MODERATOR summarized the recommendations emerging from the debate, and assured participants that as many of the points raised as possible would be incorporated into the final report of the panel, for submission to the IPU Governing Council.

Mrs J FRASER (Canada) took the opportunity to thank the organisers of the panel discussion and commended the presentations of the panellists and the excellent leadership of the moderator.

*The session rose at 12 30 p m*

## Sitting of Friday, 8 April (Afternoon)

*The last meeting of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly was opened at 4 p m with Mr F M Drilon (Philippines), President of the Assembly, in the Chair*

### Item 8 of the Agenda (Emergency item)

#### **Natural disasters: The role of parliaments in prevention, rehabilitation, reconstruction and the protection of vulnerable groups**

The PRESIDENT gave the floor to Mr Jayawardana, rapporteur of the drafting committee, to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/112/8-DR

Mr J JAYAWARDANA (Sri Lanka), *rapporteur of the drafting committee*, said that the emergency item dealt with the recent tsunami and with natural disasters in general. The committee had met on 5 and 6 April and was unusually large, with 14 Member Parliaments represented. It was a major concern of the committee to ensure that the resolution covered all natural disasters. He noted that man-made disasters also required attention. The tsunami disaster had affected many countries around the Indian Ocean. The resolution underlined the need to prevent disasters where possible, and also to reduce the effects of disasters. Special measures were needed to protect children. Local ownership was required for a successful reconstruction process. The countries affected by the tsunami must be responsible and transparent, and the media must provide accurate information to keep the world informed. Parliamentarians must take the specific measures identified in the resolution to create and train disaster recovery teams, to build capacity, to draft medium- and long-term rehabilitation plans and to create early warning mechanisms.

The PRESIDENT reminded the Assembly that in accordance with Rule 32.2 of the Rules of the Assembly, delegates who wished to explain their votes or express a reservation on the draft resolution should do so after the vote was taken.

He asked whether the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted*  
(See text of the resolution in Annex IV)

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any reservations. There were none.

The PRESIDENT declared the resolution adopted unanimously.

### Item 4 of the agenda

#### **The role of parliaments in the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to provide for the judgement and sentencing of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, with a view to avoiding impunity**

The PRESIDENT said that the First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security had prepared the draft resolution contained in document A/112/4-DR. He invited Mr Garcia Jarpa, of Venezuela, to introduce his report.

Mr J GARCIA JARPA (Venezuela), *rapporteur*, greeted the Assembly on behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Noting that the work of the First Standing Committee had concerned the role of parliaments in the establishment and functioning of mechanisms to provide for the judgement and sentencing of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, with a view to avoiding impunity, he said that the drafting committee had built on drafts presented by the delegations of Argentina and Algeria to draw up a draft resolution, which the First Standing Committee had adopted and was introducing to the Assembly.

Naturally, the text was in keeping with the fundamental principles of the IPU. The debates, however, had shown that a unanimously accepted definition of terrorism was not yet possible. Bringing that discussion to completion would certainly require more time.

Mr Garcia Jarpa read out the third, tenth, thirteenth and fourteenth preambular paragraphs and the key points of the operative part of the draft resolution contained in document A/112/4-DR, and invited the Assembly to adopt it

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution

*The draft resolution was adopted*  
(See text of the resolution in Annex I)

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any reservations

Mr G NOUMEIR (Syrian Arab Republic) said that without wishing to express any reservations or raise any objections, he believed that partial solutions to the problem of terrorism were inadequate and that an international conference should be held to define terrorism with a view to eliminating its causes and avoiding its consequences. Accusing a specific monotheistic religion of terrorism was untenable. The Syrian Arab Republic had always advocated respect for human rights. Underscoring the need for resuming peace negotiations without preconditions, he conveyed his country's sincere condolences on the death of Pope John Paul II, who had been a champion of peace.

The PRESIDENT noted that the intervention by Mr G Noumeir did not express a reservation to the resolution.

Mr E MENEM (Argentina), speaking as President of the First Standing Committee, hailed the spirit in which the drafting committee had worked, and thanked its president and other members. All parliamentarians should spare no effort to ensure that States whose parliaments were Members of the IPU adopted the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to ensure that all war criminals were brought to justice and that impunity ceased. The Government of Argentina rigorously opposed the conclusion of bilateral agreements under which soldiers or citizens of some countries would not be tried for war crimes committed during the occupation of a territory, and favoured freezing any negotiations aimed at concluding such agreements.

The PRESIDENT noted that the intervention by Mr Menem did not express a reservation on the part of the delegation of

Argentina. He declared that the resolution had been adopted unanimously.

#### Item 5 of the agenda

#### **The role of parliaments in establishing innovative international financing and trading mechanisms to address the problem of debt and achieve the Millennium Development Goals**

The PRESIDENT said that the Second Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade had prepared the draft resolution contained in document A/112/5-DR, which would be introduced by Mr Lowenthal Foncea, of Guatemala.

Mr J LOWENTHAL FONCEA (Guatemala), *Rapporteur*, said that the 111<sup>th</sup> Assembly had appointed two co-Rapporteurs for the item in question: Mr O Martínez of Cuba and Mr R del Picchia of France. Unfortunately, Mr Martínez had been unable to come to Manila, having been hospitalised on the very eve of the Assembly. He wished him a speedy recovery. The Steering Committee of the Assembly had agreed that Mr Martínez could be replaced as co-Rapporteur by Mr J Crombet Hernandez-Baquero, the head of the Cuban delegation.

The co-Rapporteurs had produced a preliminary draft resolution. The drafting committee had considered 124 amendments, and accepted 40 in whole or in part. When a further draft had been considered, a single amendment proposed by the delegation of Germany had been defeated, and the text had then been adopted by consensus. He hoped that the plenary would consider the draft resolution in the same constructive spirit.

Lastly, he noted that the Standing Committee had elected Mr A Fomenko of the Russian Federation as its new President, together with five titular and six substitute Vice-Presidents.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted*  
(See text of the resolution in Annex II)

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any reservations. There were none.

The PRESIDENT declared the resolution adopted unanimously.

Item 6 of the agenda**The role of parliaments in advocating and enforcing observance of human rights in the strategies for the prevention, management and treatment of the HIV/AIDS pandemic**

The PRESIDENT invited Mrs Sauri Riancho (Mexico), Rapporteur of the Third Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/112/6-DR

Mrs D M SAURI RIANCHO (Mexico), *Rapporteur*, said that the representatives from Belgium, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Russian Federation and Switzerland, who had taken part in the drafting committee of the Third Standing Committee, had elected Mr P Günter as president. The initial text of the draft resolution had been presented by Ms C A Martinez (Philippines) and Mr E Tumwesigye (Uganda), and had comprised 14 preambular and 17 operative paragraphs. Subsequently, 18 countries had proposed 36 amendments and new paragraphs regarding the preamble, and 80 regarding the operative part.

The Meeting of Women Parliamentarians had, at its Sunday session, discussed the item selected by the Committee, and under a new article in the Union's Statutes authorising the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians to contribute to committee debates, had proposed 25 further amendments and new paragraphs. That was indeed an excellent way of helping to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Meeting.

The drafting committee had studied the proposals and merged them into a final version of the draft resolution, comprising 27 preambular and 37 operative paragraphs. The complexity of the text presented to the Assembly reflected the wealth of ideas in the debate. It underscored the link between poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic; the urgency of attaining the MDGs concerning poverty and the virus; the role of public health measures in compliance with the World Trade Organization (WTO) decision of 30 August 2003 on trade in medicines, which should be accessible to the population of poor countries; the role of diagnostic and treatment measures, particularly the production of a vaccine, and of sex education for young girls and boys as part of

school curricula; and the need to guarantee the full exercise of human rights of the population's most vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, in view of discrimination related to the pandemic.

The drafting committee had adopted the draft resolution by acclamation, but the delegation of Saudi Arabia had expressed deep concern over the protection of health workers, such as physicians and nurses. According to the president of the drafting committee, that observation, which had not prompted any amendment, would appear in the record of the Assembly's meeting.

In accordance with the rules of rotation applicable to the President and first Vice-President, Ms R Kadaga (Uganda), who had ably chaired the Third Standing Committee, would become first Vice-President, while Mr J K Yoo (Republic of Korea) would be President of the Committee as from the 113<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Committee thanked Ms Kadaga for conducting its business effectively and wished the new President every success.

The PRESIDENT asked whether the Assembly wished to adopt the draft resolution.

*The draft resolution was adopted*  
(See text of the resolution in Annex III)

The PRESIDENT asked if there were any reservations. There were none.

The PRESIDENT declared the resolution adopted unanimously.

Item 7 of the agenda**Approval of the subject items for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly and appointment of the Rapporteurs**

The SECRETARY GENERAL said that in accordance with the procedure for preparing the agenda for the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly, all Members had had the opportunity to put forward proposals to the Bureaux of the three standing committees, and each committee had then put forward a single proposal.

The First Standing Committee had proposed the following subject item: *The role of parliaments in strengthening the control of trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition*; the Second Standing Committee had proposed: *The role of*

*parliaments in environmental management and in combating global degradation of the environment and the Third Standing Committee had proposed: How parliaments can and must promote effective ways of combating violence against women in all fields*

If the Assembly agreed to adopt those subject items, it would also have to appoint co-Rapporteurs. The following candidates had been proposed as co-Rapporteurs: First

Standing Committee: Mr F-X de Donnea (Belgium) and Mrs R Oniang'o (Kenya); Second Standing Committee: Mr S Katoh (Japan) and Mr JT Nonô (Brazil); Third Standing Committee: Mrs H Lee (Republic of Korea) and Mrs M A Martínez García (Spain)

*The proposed agenda of the 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly was adopted, together with the list of Rapporteurs*

## Closure of the Assembly

The PRESIDENT said that the Assembly had now concluded its formal business. Before delegates departed, he would recognise representatives of the geopolitical groups who wished to say a few final words.

Mr. F. OLE KAPARO (Kenya) said that on behalf of the Kenyan delegation and the African geopolitical group he wanted to thank the Philippine Senate and people for the very warm welcome they had afforded to all delegates. The Kenyan parliament was deeply appreciative that the honour of holding the 114<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly would fall to them. This would be the first IPU Assembly held in Kenya, a source of tremendous pride for the Kenyan people.

Democracy required respect for other countries' ways of organising their societies. The more that people learned about other cultures and civilisations, the more they would appreciate their beauty and richness, and this would contribute to world peace and security. He was confident that the forthcoming Assembly in Nairobi would foster such cultural interactions. Nairobi was commonly known as "the City in the sun". He hoped all IPU delegates would enjoy their stay there, and would be able to experience not only the city itself, but also the wildlife in the surrounding areas.

Mr. J.-K. YOO (Republic of Korea) said that on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea and the Asia Pacific Group, he wished to thank all those who had provided assistance following the tsunami disaster. He thanked the Philippine people for their warm welcome. It was important that the speeches delivered in the Assembly should be translated into action when delegates returned to their own societies and parliaments. He expressed gratitude to parliamentarians who supported the maintenance of peace in the Korean peninsula. There was now a prospect for the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Mr. A. MAHMOUD (Yemen), speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, thanked the people, Government and Senate of the Philippines for their generous hospitality and the excellent organisation of the Assembly. He said that his group's parliamentarians had become acquainted with the noble Philippine

civilisation, a balanced mix of various cultures and thereby a credit to the world. Important and useful discussions concerning various areas had taken place during the Assembly, and the debates had demonstrated the participating parliamentarians' sense of responsibility and wish for transparency. It was unfortunate that the same spirit failed to characterise all international relations, and that some countries had hegemonic objectives and tended to take no account of the consequences of their policies, thereby heightening tensions. Hawkish and arrogant attitudes prompted intervention in other countries' domestic affairs, in disregard for their sovereignty and cultural heritage. Iraq and Palestine offered pertinent examples. Parliamentarians should endeavour to cooperate against such policies, and defend the values of solidarity and reciprocal respect.

Mrs. Z. M. RIOS-MONTT DE WELLER (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of Latin American parliamentarians, thanked the young people who had worked with unfailing energy and generosity to ensure the success of the Assembly. The event had enabled Latin American delegations to witness the dynamism of the Republic of the Philippines, which maintained its unity by preserving its identity and diversity, two prerequisites for sustainable development, peace and freedom. The extensive participation of Latin American parliamentarians showed their wish to strengthen international relations among the world's parliaments in a spirit respectful of the dignity of persons and the sovereignty of nations, which bred and nourished the ideas of coexistence, reconciliation and peace. The entire splendid nation of the Philippines, whose islands formed a seven-thousand-pearl necklace, was to be thanked.

Mr. G. VERSNICK (Belgium) reminded the Assembly participants of the pleasant time they had had; they had delivered good work, and had prepared well for the next meeting, to be held in Geneva. It had been a remarkable and wonderful time. The organisation had been excellent, and everyone had felt at home. They would remember the Filipinos as a warm and loving people. He expressed his regret at the incident which had occurred involving a member of his delegation, and reported that his colleague was recovering well. That incident

had been widely reported in the Philippines and abroad, so much so, that he wondered whether the world was aware of the work which had taken place during the Assembly. The IPU was necessary; it was the international voice of democracy, and needed to be understood across the world, including by other organisations such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. Communication needed to be improved. The Assembly needed the budget and the personal involvement to carry forward its work. He wished everyone a safe trip home, and said that he would return to the Philippines.

Mr S BABURIN (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the delegations of the Eurasian Group, said that they had fled their snowscapes. In Manila, they had found warmth, but that more than the hot climate, what impressed most was the warmth of the people. During the Assembly, the importance of the IPU had once more become fully apparent. Thanks were due to all those who had made possible the Assembly's success: the Senate and its President, the municipal and government authorities, as well as the interpreters, the drivers and the entire staff. The delegates would leave part of their hearts in Manila. They wished the Philippine people well, and were confident of the IPU's success.

Mr S PAEZ VERDUGO, *President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, said that the delegates to the Assembly would return to their parliamentary activities revitalised and bent on their main objective: strengthening their fellow citizens' faith in politics. To that end, they should immediately see to the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly. They concerned areas of capital importance: justice, well-being, health and the social code of ethics. Parliamentarians should justify their electorate's trust and work courageously to give globalisation a human face. The

112<sup>th</sup> Assembly was coming to an end, but had consensually adopted specific resolutions with far-reaching political significance. An active follow-up was required to ensure the vitality of domestic and international political activity on a daily basis.

He thanked the authorities and people of the Philippines, the Senate, its President and all those who had worked for the success of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly. He wished the Republic of the Philippines peace and prosperity, and concluded by observing that nothing was worse for a public servant than resting on her or his laurels. That risk was certainly alien to the IPU, which would continue to progress with a view to responding appropriately to constant change and ensuring that democracy ceaselessly advanced.

The PRESIDENT said that as he closed the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the IPU, he wished to express his appreciation to Mr Páez and Mr Johnsson for giving the Philippines the opportunity to host the Assembly. He congratulated the members on the success of the current Assembly, stating that he had greatly appreciated their participation. It had been both an enriching and exhausting experience for the staff of the Philippine Senate. There had been wide-ranging debates which were timely and relevant, and participants had learned from the experiences of other countries. The delegates were in the Philippines because they believed they could work together to effect change. He hoped that the time spent and effort made would not be lost to apathy and pessimism, and that the preparations made by the Philippines had met with the IPU's high standards and expectations. Lastly, he acknowledged the work of the Philippine Senate staff, and declared the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly closed.

*The Assembly closed at 5 25 p m*

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หน้าวาง

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONING OF MECHANISMS  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE JUDGEMENT AND SENTENCING OF WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST  
HUMANITY, GENOCIDE AND TERRORISM, WITH A VIEW TO AVOIDING IMPUNITY**

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Manila, 8 April 2005)***

The 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Deeply concerned* by the fact that in today's world, many regions and whole societies are brutally affected by the persistence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and/or terrorism, all of which are serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole,

*Convinced* that there is no justifiable cause for those abhorrent crimes,

*Considering* that, in keeping with the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law, appropriate instruments have been developed, and that it is of paramount importance to ensure that their provisions be enforced, in conformity with the international obligations assumed by States,

*Recalling* in this respect the particular importance of ensuring respect for the rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and other instruments, treaties and agreements ensuring respect for human dignity, as well as the human rights norms of customary international law as reflected by state practice,

*Considering* that under international law, no statutory limitation applies to war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and such crimes are not subject to amnesty, clemency or pardon, and that this has been confirmed by the judgements of national and international courts,

*Recalling* the resolutions on peace, security and disarmament adopted by the IPU since 1990,

*Stressing* the importance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in preventing and punishing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, and *recalling* in this respect that States party to the Rome Statute of the ICC have a duty to prosecute such crimes themselves or to refer persons suspected of such crimes to the jurisdiction of the ICC, and also that international humanitarian law, as enshrined in the Geneva Conventions for the protection of victims of war of 12 August 1949 and their Additional Protocols, places the obligation on States to search for and try persons alleged to have committed, or have ordered to be committed, grave breaches, regardless of the persons' nationality or where the violations take place,

*Recognising* that the jurisdiction of the ICC is limited to crimes committed on or after 1 July 2002 and that there is a need for mechanisms to address war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed before that date,

*Considering* the Rome Statute, which requires States Parties to cooperate with the ICC in order to combat war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and *considering* the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism,

*Concerned* at the lack of progress made, on the one hand by the States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC and on the other hand by all States, in implementing the necessary mechanisms to support, respectively, the Statute and the provisions adopted by the United Nations and other bodies to combat these crimes,

*Recognising* that political will to speak out against racism, xenophobia and intolerance is an essential element in ending impunity,

*Concerned* at the fact that the implementation of agreements on the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism has been delayed, set aside, or omitted by some States, thus subjecting these agreements to different interpretations and reducing their effectiveness, *alarmed* at the possibility that this may signal a permissive attitude towards impunity, and *concerned* at the fact that many States have not yet ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute,

*Convinced* that parliaments have a primary responsibility, and must, by enacting necessary legislation, play a central role in the prevention, punishment and avoidance of impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, and that a multilateral approach among parliaments is an appropriate way to facilitate the implementation of mechanisms required for the enforcement of judgements and penalties for these abhorrent crimes,

*Recalling* that each State has the obligation and the duty to prosecute or extradite the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide and terrorist crimes, irrespective of the location of the crime or the nationality of the perpetrator or the victim,

*Recalling* that victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism have the right to truth, justice and reparation,

- 1 *Strongly condemns*, without exception, all acts, methods and practices of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;
- 2 *Strongly condemns* all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved, which threaten friendly relations among peoples, endanger or take innocent lives, have a deleterious effect on international relations and may jeopardise the security and territorial integrity of States,
- 3 *Strongly advises* all IPU Member Parliaments to assume, before their States and citizens, in conformity with their national legislations and the international obligations of States, the responsibility for implementing and enforcing, through the enactment of national laws, the international agreements that have been concluded to punish and prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;
- 4 *Recommends* that through the inter-parliamentary activity of IPU Members, efforts should be combined and experiences shared in order to develop the necessary mechanisms to pursue these objectives, and to avoid impunity for those individuals, organisations and States that commit war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;
- 5 *Urges* Member Parliaments duly to codify, in accordance with international law, in particular international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law, these abhorrent crimes in their domestic criminal law, and to establish the corresponding penalties and mechanisms to avoid impunity;
- 6 *Invites* those States which have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute and to ratify the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court; and *encourages* all Member Parliaments whose States are parties to the Rome Statute to pass domestic legislation in order to allow them to cooperate with the ICC;
- 7 *Recommends* that all parliaments, including those of States which have not ratified the Rome Statute, enact laws for the prevention and punishment of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;
- 8 *Recommends* that all parliaments support and cooperate with the ICC and other competent bodies (such as national and international commissions for the investigation of

- crimes against humanity and national and international courts), and thus strengthen parliamentary action to eradicate war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;
- 9 *Recommends* that States specifically address the issue of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed before the entry into force of the Rome Statute in a framework of justice and legality, which are the necessary conditions to attain peace and the respect of human rights in each country and in the international community;
  - 10 *Urges* Member Parliaments to reject bilateral agreements that would provide for immunity from investigation and prosecution, by the ICC or otherwise, for the nationals of any State;
  - 11 *Recommends* that all parliaments do everything in their power to assist with the criminal prosecution of persons being sought by the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), including by facilitating their hand-over;
  - 12 *Calls on* parliaments to consider ratifying, if they have not yet done so, the 12 multilateral treaties on terrorism and the relevant regional instruments, to incorporate their provisions into domestic legislation and to see to it that they are duly implemented;
  - 13 *Recommends* that all parliaments urge their respective governments to intensify efforts to come to a global agreement on terrorism, expressing the common awareness of States of the threat of international terrorism and providing a precise definition of the nature and actual features of this phenomenon, so as to combat it more effectively;
  - 14 *Calls for* recognition of the need to strengthen capacity-building assistance for countries which have the political will but lack the technical resources necessary to conclude and implement the 12 conventions and protocols relating to terrorism;
  - 15 *Recommends* that all parliaments enact legislation, in line with international law, to create civil procedures to provide compensation to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism;
  - 16 *Encourages* parliaments to make the fullest possible use of their competences and roles to achieve these objectives;
  - 17 *Recommends* that parliaments take account of international declarations and conventions on these subjects and of the considerations of the United Nations, the ICC and all related international or regional agencies, authorities and bodies;
  - 18 *Invites* parliaments to include in their agendas, as a priority, the activities required to implement all mechanisms which may contribute to the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and terrorism, including the strengthening of rule of law mechanisms, so as to avoid impunity for these crimes and to ensure the rights of the victims of such crimes to just reparation;
  - 19 *Invites* the United Nations and parliaments to promote voluntary contributions to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ESTABLISHING INNOVATIVE INTERNATIONAL FINANCING  
AND TRADING MECHANISMS TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF DEBT AND ACHIEVE  
THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Manila, 8 April 2005)***

The 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the Declaration adopted on 1 September 2000 by the Presiding Officers of National Parliaments entitled The Parliamentary Vision of International Cooperation on the Eve of the Third Millennium,

*Recalling also* the Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000, which sets out eight time-bound and measurable goals collectively known as the Millennium Development Goals, as criteria established jointly by the international community for the elimination of poverty, and also the Human Development Reports drawn up by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

*Recalling* the final declarations of specialised United Nations conferences, in particular the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico in 2002, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002, and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels, Belgium in 2001,

*Recalling* the Declaration adopted in New York on 20 September 2004 by 120 countries at the end of the Summit for Action against Hunger and Poverty, the September 2004 report by the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms and the final reports of the UN Millennium Project, delivered on 17 January 2005,

*Recalling* the resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, particularly those adopted by the 73<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Lomé, 1985) on the role of parliaments and their contribution towards the elimination of poverty by eliminating the burden of international debt; the 74<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Ottawa, 1985) on the contribution of parliaments to the search for measures and actions aimed at removing the burden of foreign debt that weighs on the developing countries; the 88<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Stockholm, 1992) on the need for a radical solution to the problem of debt in the developing world; and the 102<sup>nd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Berlin, 1999) on the need to revise the current global financial and economic model, as well as the Final Document of the Inter-Parliamentary Conference "North-South Dialogue for Global Prosperity" organised by the IPU in Ottawa in 1993, and the resolutions adopted by the 107<sup>th</sup> Conference (Marrakech, 2002) on the role of parliaments in developing public policy in an era of globalisation, multilateral institutions and international trade agreements, and also by the Parliamentary Meeting on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), by the 108<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Santiago, 2003) on parliament's role in strengthening democratic institutions and human development in a fragmented world, and by the 109<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (Geneva, 2003) on global public goods: a new challenge for parliaments,

*Greatly concerned* by the fact that 1.2 billion people – or one in five persons in the world – survive on less than a US dollar a day in purchasing power parity per capita, below the international poverty rate set at a dollar a day, and that in the 1990s, poverty worsened in 54 countries, including 35 African countries, leaving them poorer at the end of the decade than in 1990,

*Concerned* by the fact that even if the proportion of people in extreme poverty were to be halved by 2015 in comparison with 1990, it is clear that hundreds of millions of people in the developing world would continue to live in complete destitution,

*Recognising* that the role of parliaments in championing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is crucial, and that the adoption of the corresponding legislation and appropriate budgetary allocations is indispensable,

*Stressing* the need for assistance and support to improve the institutional capacity of parliaments in developing countries, with a view to enabling them to exercise effectively the legislative, oversight and budgetary functions related to the MDGs,

*Recognising* the importance of ensuring environmental sustainability in achieving the MDGs, *stressing* the role of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade for Action: Water for Life, starting in 2005, and *welcoming* the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol on 16 February 2005 as a significant step forward,

*Deeply concerned* that in the current state of affairs, the financing of efforts to achieve the MDGs, and thus their implementation, is not ensured,

*Noting* that economic growth, debt relief and public development assistance - the three main sources of funding for development - are in the current circumstances unable to generate the extra 50 to 100 billion dollars required annually to achieve the MDGs,

*Noting* that the official development assistance (ODA) commitment (provision of 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)) is still not being met by most countries, but *noting with satisfaction* the undertakings by several countries to meet these commitments within the next decade,

*Noting* that despite the progress made on debt cancellation, relief and rescheduling both bilaterally, and multilaterally in the framework of the Bretton Woods institutions, the burden of the debt remains a major constraint and an obstacle to economic growth and human development,

*Convinced* that increased development assistance funding can only be beneficial if the receiving countries promote democracy and good governance,

*Convinced* that globalisation is at the same time a source of opportunities and challenges for all countries, and that it has an impact on people's everyday lives,

*Noting* that many developing countries are increasingly excluded from international trade and capital flows, which results in poverty,

*Noting* the growing importance of international trade and investment and their direct influence on the development and well-being of the nations of the entire world, and *concerned* at the fact that the current international trade and investment system is distorted in many sectors in favour of the developed countries, and poses problems for many developing countries,

*Noting* that awareness of the importance of trade and investment to furthering countries' development has grown since the Fourth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Doha, which sought to place the needs and interests of the developing countries at the centre of international trade negotiations and drew up the Doha Development Agenda,

*Welcoming* the Geneva framework agreement of July 2004, a breakthrough in the negotiations conducted by the WTO, following the failure of the Cancún meeting,

*Nonetheless concerned* about the many uncertainties that remain in those negotiations, in particular with regard to issues of great importance to developing countries,

*Noting* the striking lack of resources currently available to achieve most MDGs by 2015, and *underscoring* the responsibility of governments and the parliaments which provide them with oversight to respect the commitments made at the Millennium Summit in 2000,

*Strongly believing* that 2005 will be the key year for governments to act to achieve the MDGs, at such high-level meetings as the G8 summit, to be held in July, the high-level plenary meeting to review the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration of the sixtieth session of the

United Nations General Assembly, to be held in September, and the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in December,

*Looking forward to the forthcoming Millennium+5 Summit, to be held in New York from 14 to 16 September 2005, and strongly wishing that the event will re-energise global partnerships for the achievement of the MDGs;*

- 1 *Urges* the parliaments of the countries that adopted the Millennium Declaration which are Members of the IPU to support the implementation of the MDGs in their countries by allocating funds for this purpose in their national budgets;
- 2 *Encourages* the parliaments of developed countries to demand that their governments fulfil their commitments to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GDP for ODA, as set out in the Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus;
- 3 *Urges* the parliaments of the developing countries to make sure that their governments mobilise the resources required for development, combat corruption, continue institutional reform, adopt the economic and social policies appropriate to stimulate growth, establish national strategies which place the MDGs at the centre of their policies, and promote democracy and human rights, paying special attention to the implementation of the new World Programme for Human Rights Education, and follow the principles of good governance;
- 4 *Encourages* the parliaments of the developing countries to defend the interests of their people in WTO negotiations and to strengthen their mutual cooperation;
- 5 *Urges* the governments of the developed and developing countries to provide annual reports on the application and implementation of these strategies to their parliaments;
- 6 *Suggests* that such reports should give rise to a parliamentary debate at the national, and if possible, regional level;
- 7 *Suggests* that provisions should be made for the same kind of approach, involving a strategy and a report, at the regional level;
- 8 *Urges* donor countries, in particular members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to draw up reports on the implementation of Goal 8 of the MDGs (develop a global partnership for development), specifying the action they have taken to achieve such objectives both quantitatively and qualitatively;
- 9 *Calls for* efforts to enhance the effectiveness of aid at the international and regional levels, through better harmonisation of procedures and improved donor coordination;
- 10 *Urges* donor countries to pursue collaboration with United Nations organisations, international financial institutions, other donor countries, NGOs and the private sector;
- 11 *Underscores* the unbearable nature of the debt for a large number of developing countries; and *calls urgently for* effective debt cancellation and viable rescheduling procedures to be speeded up while measures are taken to avoid new over-indebtedness among developing countries;
- 12 *Suggests* that a vital link be established between debt cancellation and the earmarking of resources thus freed up for investments related to the MDGs, in particular in the fields of health, education and gender equality, as set out in each country's Poverty Reduction Strategy;

- 13 *Recommends* the study of other mechanisms to help countries that have serious debt crises, but that have too high a per capita income to qualify for the assistance afforded to the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPCs);
- 14 *Expresses the wish* that the needs of the developing countries be systematically taken into consideration in international trade negotiations under way in the framework of the WTO, in particular in respect of poverty alleviation, food security and sustainable income;
- 15 *Emphasises* the central role of parliaments as the incarnation of popular sovereignty in expressing the will of peoples in international forums;
- 16 *Recommends* the establishment by IPU Member Parliaments of specialised committees to follow up on international trade negotiations and on the actions of the international financial institutions, and to provide oversight of government action;
- 17 *Requests* governments to inform their parliaments fully of the state of relevant international negotiations and the stakes involved;
- 18 *Requests* the IPU, working with the WTO, to help strengthen the capacities of parliaments in this field;
- 19 *Suggests* that governments include parliamentarians in the delegations that they send to take part in WTO ministerial meetings;
- 20 *Welcomes* the adoption at United Nations Headquarters of the Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty by 120 countries on 20 September 2004, aimed in particular at supporting the establishment of new international financing tools for the MDGs;
- 21 *Recommends* that a new resource should be set up, additional to existing mechanisms, and that it should be at the same time predictable and stable;
- 22 *Supports* further work on proposals for international financing mechanisms as a creative and at the same time realistic way of providing additional resources for development;
- 23 *Requests* that the Second World Conference of Speaker of Parliaments, to be held at the United Nations in 2005, follow up on this matter

**THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN ADVOCATING AND ENFORCING OBSERVANCE  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION,  
MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT OF THE HIV/AIDS PANDEMIC**

***Resolution adopted unanimously by the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Manila, 8 April 2005)***

The 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Recalling* the relevant resolutions of the IPU, especially the resolution entitled Action to combat HIV/AIDS in view of its devastating human, economic and social impact, adopted in Windhoek in 1998, and *convinced* that HIV/AIDS is an all-embracing threat against development, rather than an isolated health problem,

*Further recalling* the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights, issued by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 1998, and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS "Global Crisis - Global Action" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001,

*Taking note of* the UNAIDS 2004 Report on the global AIDS epidemic,

*Affirming* the recommendations contained in the document *Guidance on ethics and equitable access to HIV treatment and care*, issued by UNAIDS and the World Health Organization (WHO),

*Referring to* the *Handbook for Legislators on HIV/AIDS, Law and Human Rights*, published jointly by the IPU and UNAIDS in 1999,

*Reaffirming* the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which aims to halt and begin to reverse, by 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS,

*Aware* that the achievement of all MDGs, including those concerning education and food security, will not be feasible unless progress is made in addressing the challenge of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases,

*Deeply concerned* that each year the number of people infected with HIV continues to grow, and *also deeply concerned* by the exponential growth in the number of women, young people and children affected by HIV/AIDS,

*Recognising* that discrimination against women, both *de jure* and *de facto*, renders them particularly vulnerable to HIV/AIDS,

*Alarmed* by the unprecedented number of children around the world who are being orphaned by HIV/AIDS, who are thus rendered far more vulnerable and face a much greater risk of hunger, of having limited access to education, health and social services, and of violence, abuse, exploitation and recruitment as child soldiers, and *aware* that these factors increase their likelihood of becoming infected with HIV themselves,

*Further concerned* that the reluctance of some governments to acknowledge the existence and gravity of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and to recognise the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS, particularly women, hampers the effectiveness of responses to this pandemic,

*Aware* that stigma and discrimination continue to prevent people from having access to HIV testing and counselling services, which are of paramount importance in the prevention and treatment of the pandemic,

*Recognising* that the global HIV/AIDS pandemic constitutes a formidable challenge to human life and dignity and to the full enjoyment of human rights, and that the full realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms for the people affected is an essential element in the global response to the pandemic,

*Affirming* that respect for, and the protection and fulfilment of, the human rights of women and girls are necessary and fundamental components of the approach to addressing HIV/AIDS,

*Concerned* about the negative economic and social impact of the denial of the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS to work, education and other social services, and *further concerned* that women and children often suffer the greatest economic and social impact as a result of the pandemic,

*Underscoring* that the struggle against HIV/AIDS cannot be separated from the struggle against poverty, which affects primarily women and children, thus undermining the workforce and hindering economic and social development,

*Concerned* that ignorance and intolerance are still a reason for the marginalisation of persons affected or presumed to be affected by HIV/AIDS, which causes discriminatory acts in the fields of medical assistance, job opportunities, education, housing and, in general, in every aspect related to their social well-being,

*Considering* that although the use of antiretroviral medications combined with proper therapies can delay the advance of HIV/AIDS, millions of infected people in developing nations, particularly in Africa, cannot afford these treatments,

*Considering* that under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), WTO members may allow the production of patented medicines in the event of health emergencies, and *realising* that the World Health Assembly passed a resolution encouraging WHO member States to utilise fully the flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement to promote access to antiretrovirals and other essential pharmaceutical products,

*Aware* that the realisation of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS requires non-discriminatory access for them to services, including health care, treatment and social and legal services, within a supportive social environment,

*Convinced* that recognising the degree of the infection levels of the HIV/AIDS pandemic within each country will help the respective governments tailor their prevention and treatment programmes to meet their particular needs,

*Further convinced* that capacity-building in the field of public health is critical to the effective prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS,

*Also convinced* that countries particularly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic should receive special support from the international community for their efforts to comply with their commitments,

*Considering* that ensuring access to affordable medication, including access to antiretroviral therapy for those suffering from HIV/AIDS, is fundamental to achieving progressively the full realisation of the universal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,

*Considering* that conflict situations, particularly in Africa, have led to an increased incidence of HIV/AIDS, and *recalling* United Nations Security Council resolution 1308 (2000), which states that the HIV/AIDS pandemic, if unchecked, may pose a risk to stability and security, and the report of the United Nations High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, which places infectious diseases among the economic and social threats to international security,

Aware of the fact that any response to the epidemic will be effective only if it addresses the causes of its spread, including human trafficking, in particular trafficking in women and girls, drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking and gender-based violence, and *considering* in this context that the pivotal roles of the family, religion and long-established fundamental ethical principles and values need to be underlined,

*Emphasising* that the HIV/AIDS pandemic is at the same time a medical, social and economic emergency,

- 1 *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ensure that their laws, policies and practices respect human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS, in particular the rights to education, work, privacy, protection and access to care, treatment and social services; and *also calls upon* them to protect people living with HIV/AIDS from all forms of discrimination in both the public and the private sectors, promote gender equality, ensure privacy and confidentiality in research involving human subjects, and provide for speedy and effective judicial, administrative and civil remedies in the event that the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS are violated;
- 2 *Reminds* States of the commitments they have made to promote and encourage respect for human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocols, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Declaration on Fundamental Rights and Principles at Work of the International Labour Organization; and *requests* States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to ratify and implement these international instruments;
- 3 *Invites* States that have not already done so to include in their national reports on the MDGs the objective of stopping by 2015 the spread of HIV/AIDS and of beginning to reverse the development of this pandemic; *further invites* parliaments to sponsor the official launch of these reports from their premises; and *encourages* the periodic establishment of national and regional reports taking stock of the degree of achievement of the MDGs, in particular in the field of the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- 4 *Urges* governments in the developed countries both to continue and to increase the financial and technical assistance that they provide to developing countries and especially the least developed countries, and to share their expertise in addressing HIV/AIDS with those countries that seek to create or strengthen their own human rights institutions in the context of HIV/AIDS;
- 5 *Further urges* governments to allocate sufficient resources to their health systems, including resources for prevention and care;
- 6 *Strongly urges* governments to implement the measures recommended in the UNAIDS/WHO document *Guidance on ethics and equitable access to HIV treatment and care* to promote equity in the distribution of HIV care in resource-limited settings;
- 7 *Further urges* parliaments and governments to adopt and finance the measures necessary to ensure, on a sustained basis and for all affected persons (irrespective of social status, legal situation, gender, age or sexual orientation), the availability and accessibility of good quality services and information for HIV/AIDS prevention, management, treatment, care and support, including the provision of HIV/AIDS prevention supplies such as male and female condoms, safe injection needles, microbicides and basic preventive care materials, as well as affordable antiretroviral drugs and other safe and effective medicines in poor countries, psychological support, diagnostics and related technologies, for all persons, with particular attention to vulnerable individuals and populations such as women and children;

- 8 *Also urges* parliaments and governments to implement measures to increase the capacity of women and adolescent girls to protect themselves from the risk of HIV infection, principally through the provision of health care and health services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health;
- 9 *Invites* parliaments and governments to adopt the measures necessary to continue, intensify, combine, make mutually beneficial and harmonise national and multinational research and development efforts aimed at developing new treatments for the fight against HIV/AIDS, new means of prevention and new diagnostic tools and tests, including vaccines and female-controlled prevention methods such as microbicides;
- 10 *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to recognise the health, socio-economic and other effects of HIV/AIDS on individuals, families, societies and nations, and to take the appropriate legislative and executive social measures to halt its spread;
- 11 *Calls upon* governments to make services related to treatment, care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS comprehensive, by including the prevention and treatment of other infectious diseases often associated with HIV/AIDS, such as pneumonia, tuberculosis and opportunistic infections;
- 12 *Urges* all parliaments and governments to adopt and implement policies that respect the human rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and through all available media, to advocate for and raise awareness of their rights;
- 13 *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to develop and implement national legislation and policies that address the needs and human rights of the growing number of children orphaned and made vulnerable by the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
- 14 *Calls upon* parliaments:
  - (a) to draw up laws or amend existing legislation to define national standards of protection for those suffering from HIV/AIDS, and especially for people in vulnerable groups, such as women and children, with particular attention paid to the situation of anyone suffering from the loss of close family members as a result of HIV/AIDS;
  - (b) to review and adjust legislation to ensure that it conforms to the International Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights;
  - (c) to enact legislation to punish those who knowingly take the risk of transmitting HIV/AIDS, or who wilfully do so;
- 15 *Further calls upon* parliamentarians in the IPU's Member Parliaments to promote appropriate legislative measures to tackle discrimination against persons affected by HIV/AIDS and to contribute to the creation of a social environment of tolerance and human solidarity, indispensable for the prevention of this terrible disease and for assisting those affected by it;
- 16 *Also calls upon* parliaments, governments and the international community to ensure free access to HIV testing for all;
- 17 *Calls upon* parliaments to promote an effective and efficient use of resources for HIV/AIDS response, including by means of country-level coordination that takes into consideration the UNAIDS "Three Ones" guiding principles for national authorities and their partners;
- 18 *Urges* parliaments to create parliamentary committees and/or other structures formally linked to parliaments with the specific task of tackling the issue of halting and reversing the

- spread of HIV/AIDS, to share experiences, information and best practices and to involve all sectors of society through partnership programmes in high-level decision-making processes;
- 19 *Calls upon* organisations, agencies, bodies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system to incorporate public health into their development activities and programmes, and to support actively the capacity-building of the public health systems of Member States in respect of the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS;
  - 20 *Urges* parliaments and governments to take into consideration the linkage between sexual and reproductive health and rights on the one hand, and the fight against HIV/AIDS on the other;
  - 21 *Further urges* parliaments to develop comprehensive policies to provide for an improved food supply in countries affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
  - 22 *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ensure the development and accelerated implementation of national strategies for women's empowerment, inter alia by ensuring they have access to property rights, by promoting and protecting women's full enjoyment of all human rights and by reducing their vulnerability to HIV/AIDS through the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional and customary practices, abuse, rape and other forms of sexual violence;
  - 23 *Strongly urges* governments to coordinate efforts with and support the work of the United Nations, non-governmental organisations and other bodies or institutions involved in HIV/AIDS prevention in order to ensure that the human rights of individuals living with HIV/AIDS are upheld and protected;
  - 24 *Calls on* all parliaments and governments to strengthen national mechanisms such as commissions, tribunals, legislation and coordinated strategies to protect, enforce and monitor, in their respective countries, the human rights of individuals infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, and to eliminate all forms of stigma and discrimination, especially in respect of vulnerable groups such as women and children – both boys and girls – as they bear the brunt of the epidemic and are most likely to care for sick people and to lose jobs, family members, income and schooling opportunities as a result of the illness, and to pay equal attention to other vulnerable groups, such as prisoners;
  - 25 *Urges* parliaments and governments to design HIV/AIDS policies and programmes that effectively recognise the needs of women in particular, and that are sensitive to differences in terms of culture and religion that may exist in societies;
  - 26 *Further urges* parliaments and governments to consider the public health safeguards provided for by the 30 August 2003 decision of the General Council of the WTO allowing members to produce and/or export pharmaceutical products needed to combat infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS that threaten societies, and to incorporate permitted flexibilities into national laws enacted in compliance with the WTO TRIPS Agreement;
  - 27 *Calls upon* parliaments and governments to ban compulsory HIV/AIDS screening for people applying for travel visas, university enrolment, jobs, or asylum, in favour of voluntary testing;
  - 28 *Further calls* for special attention to be given to preventing HIV/AIDS by disseminating adequate and target group-oriented information, using all available media and multipliers, raising awareness and educating both men and women, with particular attention paid to adolescent boys and girls; and *requests* the inclusion of sex education in school curricula, for both boys and girls, as a means of prevention;

- 29 *Urges* the national and local agencies concerned to give high priority to assisting pregnant and breastfeeding women suffering from HIV/AIDS in order to protect their babies from infection;
- 30 *Requests* parliaments and governments to establish coordinated, participatory, transparent and accountable national policies and programmes for HIV/AIDS response, and to translate these national policies into action at the district and local levels, wherever possible involving, in development and implementation, non-governmental and community-based organisations, religious organisations, the private sector, and more importantly, people living with HIV/AIDS, and particularly the most vulnerable among them, including women and children;
- 31 *Calls upon* men and women parliamentarians to ensure that national budgets are gender-sensitive, thereby efficiently addressing the needs of both men and women;
- 32 *Calls for* the enhancement of support and resources for UNAIDS, and for increased financial contributions for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
- 33 *Urges* parliaments and governments to promote international cooperation, growth and development as steps towards the containment of conflict situations and the reduction of their possible impact on HIV/AIDS;
- 34 *Urges States*, in conformity with United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, to ensure adequate HIV/AIDS awareness training for members of the military and the police, and for peacekeeping personnel;
- 35 *Reiterates* its call to governments to recognise the International Partnership against AIDS in Africa and to promote it, along with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as the framework for action to fight AIDS in Africa;
- 36 *Affirms* the importance of narrowing the economic and cultural gap between the developed and developing countries, while ensuring that the strategies and programmes employed in the fight against HIV/AIDS take into consideration the natural, human and cultural characteristics of the regions where they are applied, so as to reflect both the characteristics of the demographic structure of each region and the social and economic conditions of its inhabitants;
- 37 *Emphasises* that countries should integrate the development of public health undertakings into their national economic and social development strategies, which should include the establishment and improvement of effective public health mechanisms, in particular a network for the supervision, prevention, and treatment of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and for the exchange of information

**NATURAL DISASTERS: THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTS IN PREVENTION, REHABILITATION,  
RECONSTRUCTION AND THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS*****Resolution adopted unanimously by the 112<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly  
(Manila, 8 April 2005)***

The 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

*Concerned* that earthquakes, tsunamis, torrential rains, heavy snows, high winds (including typhoons and tornados), floods, landslides, volcanic eruptions, forest fires, droughts, locust infestations and other serious natural disasters are a great transnational threat to all people, that socially vulnerable poor people in developing nations particularly vulnerable to disasters are frequently the ones who suffer great damage and become internally displaced persons or refugees after a natural disaster strikes, and that the secondary effects of natural disasters, such as food shortages and the deterioration of sanitary conditions, become enduring and serious problems,

*Aware* that all disasters, including man-made disasters, are a direct threat to human beings; and that from the viewpoint of guaranteeing human security, it is essential when they strike to ensure that aid truly addresses the suffering of those affected by the disaster, and to increase the capacity of individuals and local communities to take the initiative,

*Taking note* that over 270,000 innocent citizens of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and other countries were killed on 26 December 2004 as a result of the major earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and the tsunami in the Indian Ocean, that tens of thousands of people are still missing, and that many hundreds of others lost their lives as a result of the aftershocks in Indonesia three months later,

*Expressing* its sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones in the tsunami disaster and the aftershocks, as well as to the people, parliaments and governments of the nations affected by the disaster,

*Praising* the leadership role played by the affected nations in responding to the disaster and *holding in high regard* the speedy cooperation demonstrated by the international community in carrying out relief activities in response to the United Nations appeal for emergency support,

*Appreciating* the fact that the United Nations and its specialised agencies, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other institutions such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), as well as governments and so many international humanitarian organisations, have come forward immediately to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of the victims of the tsunami disaster and to provide emergency health care, shelter and food to the people of the affected countries, and *expressing respect and thanks* to the United Nations Secretary-General for his prompt action to visit the affected countries in order to carry out an on-the-spot investigation into the devastation and havoc caused by the tsunami,

*Recalling* the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention in the Aftermath of the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster of 26 December 2004, adopted at the special meeting held in Jakarta on 6 January 2005 of the leaders of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, and the numerous other discussions that have taken place on this subject at the international level,

*Recalling* the resolution adopted by the 108<sup>th</sup> IPU Conference, held in Santiago in 2003, on international cooperation for the prevention and management of transborder natural disasters and their impact on the regions concerned,

*Aware* that the damage from the recent earthquake and tsunami was worsened due to the lack of a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean rim area and the lack in the affected area of disaster prevention awareness regarding the cause-and-effect relationship between major earthquakes and tsunamis,

*Noting* that the Special Session on the Indian Ocean Disaster held at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 18–22 January 2005) emphasised the importance of comprehensively evaluating all the lessons learned from the tsunami disaster and continuing international and regional dialogues and discussions to build an early warning system,

*Noting* that a report of UNICEF estimated that over one third of those who died in the recent earthquake and tsunami were children, and *deeply concerned* that the surviving children who have suffered from the disaster are now being exposed to such threats as human trafficking and infectious diseases,

*Emphasising* the importance of emergency humanitarian relief activities promoted in response to this tragedy by UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), WHO and others, for both the survival and the protection of children,

*Reconfirming* the importance of a multifaceted contribution by parliaments and parliamentarians to emergency humanitarian relief for women and children who are vulnerable in post-disaster situations,

*Recognising* the need for psychological assistance and counselling to eliminate the mental trauma for millions of innocent victims of major human disasters, and *acknowledging* the effectiveness of the various kinds of support provided by non-governmental organisations,

*Considering* the importance of international cooperation, solidarity and partnership, as well as good governance at all levels, in strengthening global disaster reduction activities,

- 1 *Calls upon* the international community to renew its determination to prevent disasters where possible and to minimise the impact of unavoidable natural disasters by making maximum use of past lessons learned in order to prepare for natural disasters, which can strike anywhere in the world, and to achieve the common desire of all humankind to prevent extensive damage, and particularly the loss of life;
- 2 *Proposes* that nations around the world that are frequently struck by disasters further strengthen their cooperation in disaster prevention efforts; *encourages* them to provide and share know-how, expertise, technology, and other information for the establishment of an early warning system; and *urges* concerned governments to move forward with concrete efforts to establish a tsunami early warning system in the Indian Ocean region under international coordination, administered by United Nations entities, including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR);
- 3 *Calls upon* the parliaments of every nation to urge their governments to support, in partnership with the United Nations, effective projects conducted by international organisations such as the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, UNICEF, IOM, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), WHO, and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to support children, women, the poorest and other members of society who are vulnerable in post-disaster situations;

- 4 *Proposes* that the parliaments of affected nations and international organisations involved in relief efforts call upon governments to implement plans for the protection and survival of children, including (i) measures to combat human trafficking and to support family reunification, (ii) the establishment of child protection facilities and temporary housing for single-parent families, (iii) services to relieve psychological trauma, (iv) measures to control infectious diseases, and (v) nutritional support for children;
- 5 *Calls upon* the parliaments of the affected countries and their neighbours to protect from human trafficking, infectious diseases and other secondary damage children who have been orphaned or who remain unidentified after the disaster, by disseminating information, inter alia by drawing society's attention to this matter and educating the government and police, and by appealing to their national governments to take institutional preventive measures, including the proper and prompt strengthening of the legal system, for example through the temporary suspension of adoption procedures;
- 6 *Urges* the parties concerned to be particularly attentive to the importance of local ownership of the reconstruction process; *suggests* that efforts should be made at all levels to promote the participation of vulnerable populations in planning, decision-making and operational activities, thereby making reconstruction more effective and strengthening local democracy; and *urges* all concerned in the reconstruction effort to take steps to create societies and economies that are environmentally and ecologically sustainable;
- 7 *Urges* the United Nations and other institutions of the international community, and particularly donor countries and the international financial institutions, to honour their pledges of funding and assistance in support of the national rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of affected countries; and *encourages* IPU Member Parliaments whose governments have made pledges of assistance to take decisive steps towards their realisation in a timely and urgent manner;
- 8 *Strongly urges* all parties engaged in the rehabilitation and reconstruction process to be rigorous in the fight against every form of corruption, including profiteering, in the drafting and management of all programmes;
- 9 *Calls upon* the countries affected by the tsunami disaster to be responsible, accountable and transparent and to provide the international community as quickly as possible with death tolls and all other relevant information regarding the resulting damage in order to ensure the delivery of aid suitable for the actual situation and to facilitate decisions relating to the distribution of assistance; and *further calls upon* the affected countries to make every effort to ensure that such assistance is used as quickly as possible for the direct benefit of the tsunami victims, and is used conscientiously to rebuild their respective nations;
- 10 *Recognises* the important role played by both the print and the electronic media in providing updated information regarding the tsunami disaster, in encouraging the world community to provide assistance to the tsunami victims and in disseminating all relevant information on this disaster; and *urges* the media to do the same in all disaster situations;
- 11 *Calls upon* all countries to be prepared to face such natural disasters in the future and to help developing countries to acquire natural disaster warning systems and natural disaster preparation plans; and *further calls upon* scientifically developed countries to share information on such disasters with the rest of the world, the United Nations and appropriate international institutions;
- 12 *Calls upon* the parliaments of every nation to support all disaster prevention measures, humanitarian aid and long-term reconstruction assistance implemented by governments, international organisations and others; and *urges* governments to take part in the international coordination of assistance in order to ensure the efficient use of available

resources, without prejudice to bilateral support and aid provided by individual countries or international organisations to afflicted nations;

- 13 *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to urge their governments to draw up or strengthen existing legislative policies relating to the creation, training and support of local field disaster response teams in all areas, and particularly disaster-prone areas, to predict, prepare for, plan for and prevent natural and man-made disasters, to cope with and mitigate the effects of the resulting damage, and to relieve, rehabilitate and resurrect areas affected by disasters, employing inter alia the following methods:
- (a) Capacity-building through the establishment of early warning systems and hazard mapping, and by determining escape routes, setting up evacuation centres and preparing disaster prevention measures;
  - (b) The establishment of quick and efficient disaster reporting mechanisms, providing information on inter alia the extent of the damage, the number of affected families, and the number of dead, missing and injured people, prioritising the needs to be met, coping with and minimising the damage, and distributing relief supplies such as food, non-food items, emergency shelter materials and provisions for rehabilitation, including financial aid, housing and loans;
  - (c) Creating emergency medium- and long-term rehabilitation plans, giving particular consideration to women, children, the elderly and other members of society who are most vulnerable in every aspect of a disaster;
- 14 *Calls upon* Member Parliaments to create strategically located regional disaster training, logistics and reaction centres, inter alia to train local field disaster response teams, to share international technical know-how, expertise, technology, and other information relating to disaster prevention, training and management, to pre-position emergency equipment for quick delivery and use by international response teams that respond immediately in affected areas using information previously gathered on disaster-prone areas, and to coordinate, mobilise and liaise with local field disaster response teams in the affected areas; and *further urges* collaboration between these regional disaster training, logistics and reaction centres and international humanitarian organisations such as those of the United Nations, its affiliates and agencies, and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, without prejudice to bilateral support and aid provided by individual countries or international organisations to afflicted nations;
- 15 *Invites* all Member Parliaments of the IPU to take urgent action to follow up on the recommendations contained in this resolution, and thus reaffirm their commitment to provide steadfast support for all initiatives, especially during times of extreme emergency, and to preserve the sanctity of life, alleviate human suffering, and uplift the dignity of all peoples

**PRESIDENT OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY**

Mr Franklin M Drilon  
President of the Senate of the Philippines

**VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

R de Almeida (Angola), FR Puerta (Argentina), Mrs K Hull (Australia), W Fasslabend (Austria), KA Idji (Benin), H Carvajal Donoso (Bolivia), P K Balopi (Botswana), P Lorenzini Basso (Chile), Han Qide (China), M Teshome (Ethiopia), RE Nailatikau (Fiji), Ms K Komi (Finland), Mrs M Griefahn (Germany), Mrs E Papadimitriou (Greece), CS Atwal (India), SM Yahyavi (Iran, Islamic Republic of), R Kiely (Ireland), Mrs H Arimura (Japan), A Majali (Jordan), A Ligale (Kenya), V Savengsuksa (Lao People's Democratic Republic), S Al-Shahoumi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mrs G Trujillo (Mexico), C Cellario (Monaco), A El Kadiri (Morocco), JM Katupha (Mozambique), A Opara (Nigeria), M Soomro (Pakistan), J Chaladaj (Poland), J-K Yoo (Republic of Korea), C Sogor (Romania), S Baburin (Russian Federation), F Tolofua (Samoa), Mrs B Mbete (South Africa), G Noumeir (Syrian Arab Republic), Mrs KJ Sookmark (Thailand), Lord Jopling (United Kingdom), Mrs M Xavier (Uruguay), Mrs V Mata (Venezuela)

## LIST OF DELEGATES *LISTE DES DELEGUE(E)S*

Mr Franklin M DRILON  
President of the Senate of the Philippines  
President of the 112<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Président du Sénat des Philippines*  
*Président de la 112<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr Sergio PÁEZ VERDUGO  
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Président de l'Union interparlementaire*

Mr Anders B JOHANSSON  
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
*Secrétaire général de l'Union interparlementaire*

### I MEMBERS - MEMBRES

#### ALBANIA - ALBANIE

PËLLUMBI, Servet (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée</i>
AGASI, Bardhyl (Mr /M )	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée (PSS)</i>
GJANA, Jemin (Mr /M )	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée (PD)</i>
ULQINI, Musa (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée (PSS)</i>
PRONJARI, Marjeta (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of the Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée (PD) <sup>1</sup></i>
BANUSHI, Artan (Mr /M )	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
XHELO, Pranvera (Mrs /Mme)	Expert/Interpreter <i>Expert/Interprète</i>
TOSKA, Agron (Mr /M )	Security Officer / <i>Responsable de la sécurité</i>

#### ALGERIA - ALGERIE

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DAADOUA, Layachi (Mr /M )	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (FLN)</i>
CHORFI, Miloud (Mr /M )	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (RND)</i>
DJOUADI, Djelloul (Mr /M )	Member of the People's National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée populaire nationale (PT) <sup>2</sup></i>

<sup>1</sup> (PSS: Socialist Party  
(PD: Democratic Party of Albania)

/ Parti socialiste)  
/ Parti démocratique d'Albanie)

ASSOUL, Boubeker (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

TATAH, Boualem (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

BOUKIKAZ, Soraya (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

SAIDI, Ikram (Mrs /Mme)

Secretary General of the People's National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée populaire nationale*

Diplomatic Adviser to the President of the People's National Assembly  
*Conseiller diplomatique du Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale*

Adviser to the President of the People's National Assembly  
*Conseillère du Président de l'Assemblée populaire nationale*

Protocol / *Protocole*

## ANGOLA

DE ALMEIDA, Roberto (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

HENRIQUE DA SILVA, Bernarda (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council, Focal Point on Questions Relating to the Status of Women  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Personne relais sur les questions relatives à la condition de la femme*

MPASSA, Antonio M (Mr /M )

BRAGANÇA, Ângela (Mrs /Mme)

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DE JESUS, Diogo (Mr /M )

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*Responsable du protocole*

PATRICIA, Josina (Mrs /Mme)

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KINTAS, Manuel (Mr /M )  
Aide-de-camp

NGUETA, José (Mr /M )  
Aide-de-camp

VIANNEY, João Baptista (Mr /M )  
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CASSECA, Rafael (Mr /M )  
Journalist / *Journaliste*

CAMPOS, Carlos Alberto (Mr /M )  
Photographer / *Photographe*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MPLA)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (PRS)<sup>3</sup>*

Secretary-General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

Director, International Relations  
*Directeur des relations internationales*

Deputy Director, Speaker's Office  
*Directrice adjointe, Bureau du Président*

<sup>3</sup> (MPLA: Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola / Mouvement populaire pour la libération de l'Angola)  
(PRS: Social Renovated Party / Parti du renouveau social)

**ARGENTINA - ARGENTINE**

PUERTA, Federico Ramón (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation,</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
MENEM, Eduardo (Mr /M ) President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Président de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PJ)
LOSADA, Mario (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (UCR)
SALVATORI, Pedro (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (MPN)
GIRI, Haidé (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (PJ) <sup>4</sup>
ARGÜELLO, Jorge (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
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DE LEZICA, Juan (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
ESTRADA, Juan Hector (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Parliamentary Secretary, Senate <i>Secrétaire parlementaire, Sénat</i>

**AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIE**

HULL, Kay (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
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McMULLAN, Bob (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
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CHAPMAN, Grant (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
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BESSELL, Neil (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director, Senate <i>Directeur au Sénat</i>

<sup>4</sup> (PJ: Justicialist Party  
(UCR: Radical Civic Union  
(MPN: Neuquén Popular Movement

/ Parti justicialiste)  
/ Union civique radicale)  
/ Mouvement populaire Neuquén)

HARRIS, Ian (Mr /M )  
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Clerk, House of Representatives  
*Greffier, Chambre des Représentants*

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*Administratrice principale, Cabinet du Secrétaire  
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#### AUSTRIA - AUTRICHE

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Leader of the delegation  
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Member of the Nationalrat  
*Membre du Nationalrat (V)*

SCHIEDER, Peter (Mr /M )  
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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Nationalrat  
*Membre du Nationalrat (S)*

FAULAND, Markus (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Nationalrat (F)*

MOSER, Gabriele (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Bundesrat  
*Membre du Bundesrat (G)<sup>5</sup>*

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#### AZERBAIJAN - AZERBAÏDJAN

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*Premier Vice-Président du Parlement*

MANAFOVA, Asya (Mrs /Mme)

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*Membre du Parlement, Présidente de commission  
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*Membre du Parlement (NAP)<sup>6</sup>*

MAHMUDOV, Yagub (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Parlement*

GULIYEV, Eldar (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Parlement*

GOJAYEV, Hamlet (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Principal Adviser / *Conseiller principal*

#### BAHRAIN - BAHREIN

AL RAYYES, Othman (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Council of Representatives  
*Membre du Conseil des Représentants*

<sup>5</sup> (V: People's Party  
(S: Social Democrats Party  
(F: Freedom Party  
(G: Greens  
<sup>6</sup> (NAP: New Azerbaijan Party

/ Parti populaire)  
(Parti social-démocrate)  
(Parti de la liberté)  
(Verts)  
(Nouveau parti de l'Azerbaïdjan)

AL KHAYYAT, Mohammed (Mr /M )	Member of the Council of Representatives <i>Membre du Conseil des Représentants</i>
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AL JISHI, Bahiya Jawad (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Shura Council <i>Membre du Conseil de la Choura</i>
AL SHUROOQUI, Nabeel (Mr /M )	Senior Protocol Specialist <i>Chargé du protocole</i>
AL ASSAM, Yaser (Mr /M )	Protocol Specialist <i>Chargé du protocole</i>

**BANGLADESH**

SIRCAR, Muhammad J (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Parliament <i>Président du Parlement</i>
DINA, Rezaul Bari (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament, Whip <i>Membre du Parlement, Chef de file (BNP)</i>
CHOWDHURY, Al-Haj Jahed Ali (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament, Whip <i>Membre du Parlement, Chef de file (BNP)</i>
AL-RASHID, Adv Harun (Mr /M )	Member of Parliaments <i>Membre du Parlement (BNP)</i>
KHONDKA , Delwar Hossain (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (BNP)</i>
ERSHAD, Raushan (Mrs /Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (JP)</i>
HOQUE, Enamul (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
ISLAM, Syed Ashraful (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (AL)</i>
AMIN, Khadiza (Mrs /Mme)	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (BNP)<sup>7</sup></i>
ABDUL AZIZ, Moulana (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ASHRAF UDDIN, A B M (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
KHAN, Md Omar Faruque (Mr /M ) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Secretary at the Parliament <i>Secrétaire au Parlement</i>
KHALEKUZZAMAN, Md (Mr /M ) Assisting Official / <i>Assistant</i>	Private Secretary to the Speaker <i>Secrétaire particulier du Président</i>

**BELARUS**

ZABOLOTETS, Sergei (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
KABERNIK, Nina (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Deputy Chairwoman of Standing Committee, House of Representatives <i>Vice-Présidente de commission permanente, Chambre des Représentants</i>

<sup>7</sup> (BNP: Bangladesh Nationalist Party  
(JP: Jatiyo Party)  
(AL: Awami League

/ Parti national du Bangladesh)  
/ Ligue Awami)

BARANOVA, Natalya (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of Standing Committee, Council of the Republic  
*Membre de commission permanente, Conseil de la République*

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*Membre de commission permanente, Conseil de la République*

CHERNYSHEV, Vladimir (Mr /M )  
Executive Secretary / *Secrétaire exécutif*

International Relations Department Executive  
*Administrateur du Service des relations internationales*

### BELGIUM - BELGIQUE

de DONNEA, François-Xavier (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MR)*

VERSNICK, Geert (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, President of the Twelve Plus Group  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Président du Groupe des Douze Plus*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (VLD)*

DE MEYER, Magda (Mrs /Mme)  
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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SP A)*

LALOY, Marie-José (Mrs /Mme)  
Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians  
*Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires*

Senator / *Sénatrice (PS)*

PEHLIVAN, Fatma (Mrs /Mme)

President of the Advisory Committee on Equality of Opportunity for Men and Women of the Senate  
*Présidente du comité d'avis pour l'égalité des chances entre les hommes et les femmes du Sénat (SP A)*

WILLE, Paul (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur (VLD)*

HENRY, Jean-Pol (Mr /M )

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PS)*

DESTEXHE, Alain (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur (MR)*

THIJS, Erika (Mrs /Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice (CD&V)<sup>8</sup>*

BRION, Georges (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General of the Senate  
*Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat*

DE ROUCK, Marc (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

Senior Adviser, Senate Management  
*Premier Conseiller de direction au Sénat*

DE PLANCKE, Brigitte (Mrs /Mme)  
Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe et de la délégation*

Head, Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives  
*Chef du Cabinet du Président de la Chambre des Représentants*

<sup>8</sup> (MR: Liberal Party (French)  
(VLD: Liberal Party (Flemish)  
(SP A: Socialist Party (Flemish)  
(PS: Socialist Party (French)  
(CD&V: Christian Democrat Party (Flemish)

/ Parti libéral (francophone)  
/ Parti libéral (flamand)  
/ Parti socialiste (flamand)  
/ Parti socialiste (francophone)  
/ Parti démocrate chrétien (flamand))

PELEMAN, Martin (Mr /M )  
Deputy Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjoint du Groupe et de la délégation*

BROEDERS, Marie-Paule (Mrs /Mme)  
Assistant / Assistante

RUBBEN, Ilse (Mrs /Mme)  
Assistant / Assistante

Adviser, House of Representatives  
*Conseiller à la Chambre des Représentants*

Secretary at the Senate  
*Secrétaire au Sénat*

**BENIN**

IDJI, Kolawolé A (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation,*

President of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MADEP)*

ALAZA, Lamatou (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MADEP)*

MONGBE, R. Valéry (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RB)<sup>9</sup>*

CHACRAN, Boniface (Mr /M )

Administrative Secretary-General of the National  
Assembly  
*Secrétaire général administratif de l'Assemblée  
nationale*

ADONON, Fiacre (Mr /M )  
Protocol / Protocole

ADEGNIKA, Serges (Mr /M )  
Aide-de-camp

**BOLIVIA - BOLIVIE**

CARVAJAL DONOSO, Hugo (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Economic  
Politics  
*Sénateur, Président de la Commission de Politique  
économique*

SANDY ANTEZANA, Carlos Esteban (Mr /M )

Senator, Chairman of the Committee on Inter-  
Parliamentary Affairs  
*Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires  
interparlementaires (MAS)<sup>10</sup>*

JUSTINIANO, José (Mr /M )

Senator / Sénateur

URQUIDI HODGKINSON, Enrique (Mr /M )

Senator / Sénateur

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA - BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE**

JOVANOVIĆ, Milos (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (SDS)*

ŠPIRIĆ, Nikola (Mr /M )

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
*Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants  
(SNSD)*

<sup>9</sup> (MADEP: African Movement for Democracy and Progress / Mouvement africain pour la démocratie et le progrès)  
(RB: Rebirth of Benin / La Renaissance du Bénin)

<sup>10</sup> (MAS: Movement for Socialism / Mouvement pour le socialisme)

MORANJKIĆ, Muhamed (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (BOSS)*

KAPETANOVIĆ, Senija (Mrs /Mme)

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (SBiH)<sup>11</sup>*

SAVIC, Nevenka (Ms /Mme)

Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Secretary of the Committee for Foreign Affairs and  
Trade Policy  
*Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce***BOTSWANA**

BALOPI, Patrick K (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

MAGAMA, Akanyang (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BNF)*

KARIO, Kavis (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)*

TSHIRELETSO, Botlogile (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (BDP)<sup>12</sup>*

BOEPETSWE, Keorapetse (Mrs /Mme)

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly  
*Greffière adjointe à l'Assemblée nationale*

CHEPETHE, Tlhabologo (Mrs /Mme)

Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*Senior Committee Clerk  
*Greffière principale de commission***BRAZIL - BRESIL**

FORTES, Heráclito (Mr /M )

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*Senator / *Sénateur (PFL)*

JORGE, José (Mr /M )

Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*Senator / *Sénateur (PFL)*

MORAIS, Efraim (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Conseil directeur*Senator / *Sénateur (PFL)*

BORGES, Cesar (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur (PFL)*

NONÔ, José Thomaz (Mr /M )

First Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Premier Vice-Président de la Chambre des Députés  
(PFL)*

CARNEIRO, Laura (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PFL)*

CAJADO, Claudio (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PFL)*

<sup>11</sup> (SDS: Serb Democratic Party  
(SNSD: Party of Independent Social Democrats  
(BOSS: Bosnian Party  
(SBiH: Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina

<sup>12</sup> (BNF: Botswana National Front  
(BDP: Botswana Democratic Party

/ Parti démocratique serbe)  
/ Parti social-démocrate indépendant)  
/ Parti bosniaque)  
/ Parti pour la Bosnie-Herzégovine)  
/ Front National du Botswana)  
/ Parti démocratique du Botswana)

LINS, Atila (Mr /M )  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

ALELUIA, Jose Carlos (Mr /M )  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (PFL)<sup>13</sup>

SANTOS, Alexander (Mr /M )  
Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

DE MENDONÇA, Pedro Carneiro (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
*Ministère des affaires étrangères*

SCHAEFER, Karla (Mrs /Mme)  
Administrative Secretary of the Group, Secretary to  
the delegation  
*Secrétaire administrative du Groupe, Secrétaire de la  
délégation*

### BULGARIA - BULGARIE

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Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*

IMAMOV, Aliosman (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

BELCHILOV, Svetlin (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

AVRAMOV, Ognyan (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

PETROVA, Dora (Mrs /Mme)  
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*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (NMSS)

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Chairman  
of the Budget and Finance Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de  
la Commission du budget et des finances* (MRF)

Member of the National Assembly, Member of the  
Health Committee, Member of the Environment  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la  
Commission de la santé, Membre de la Commission  
de l'environnement* (NMSS)<sup>14</sup>

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

Adviser, International Relations and Protocol  
*Conseillère, Direction des relations internationales et  
du protocole*

### BURKINA FASO

KABORE, Roch Marc Christian (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

OUEDRAOGO, Salfo Theodore (Mr /M )  
Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (PDP-PS)

COULIBALY, Toussaint Abel (Mr /M )  
Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (CFR)

KYEMTORE KAMBOU, Yeri Adèle (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council, Focal Point for  
Questions relating to the Status of Women  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Personne relais sur les  
questions relatives à la condition de la femme*

OUEDRAOGO, Idrissa (Mr /M )  
Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (ADF/RDA)

<sup>13</sup> (PFL: Liberal Front Party

<sup>14</sup> (NMSS: Simeon II National Movement  
(MRF: Movement for Rights and Freedom

/ Parti du front libéral)

/ Mouvement national pour Simeon II)

/ Mouvement pour les droits et la liberté)

SANWIDI, Hyacinthe (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (PDP-PS)<sup>15</sup>VOKOUMA, Prosper (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*PITROIIPA, Mariam (Mrs /Mme)  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administrative du Groupe*Director, International Cooperation  
*Directrice de la Coopération internationale*OUEDRAOGO, François (Mr /M )  
Aide-de-camp**BURUNDI**NITUNGA, Nestor (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Second Deputy Speaker of the Transitional Senate  
*Deuxième Vice-Président du Sénat de Transition*  
(UPRONA)BIZIMANA, Clotilde (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member and Secretary General of the Transitional Senate  
*Membre et Secrétaire générale du Sénat de transition* (FRODEBU)BARUSASIYEKO, Pierre (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member and Deputy Secretary-General of the Transitional National Assembly  
*Membre et Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée nationale de transition* (FRODEBU)<sup>16</sup>**CAMBODIA - CAMBODGE**SAMDECH KROM PREAH NORODOM, Ranariddh  
(Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*President of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

PRINCESS SISOWATH, Santa (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission on Health, Social and Women's Affairs  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Présidente de la Commission de la santé, des affaires sociales et des affaires concernant les femmes* (FUN)

NEAV, Sithong (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly, Secretary of the Commission on Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétaire de la Commission des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale* (FUN)

VANN, Seng Ly (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Commission on Human Rights and Reception of Complaints  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la Commission des droits de l'homme et de l'instruction des plaintes* (CPP)

NHEM, Thavy (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (CPP)

<sup>15</sup> (CDP: Congress for Democracy and Progress  
(PDP: Party for Democracy and Progress  
(PS: Socialist Party  
(CFR: Convention of Republican Forces  
(ADF: Alliance for Democracy and Federation  
(RDA: African Democratic Rally

<sup>16</sup> (UPRONA: Union for National Progress  
(FRODEBU: Front for Democracy in Burundi

/ Congrès pour la démocratie et le progrès)  
/ Parti pour la démocratie et le progrès)  
/ Parti socialiste)  
/ Convention des forces républicaines)  
/ Alliance pour la Démocratie et la Fédération)  
/ Rassemblement démocratique africain)  
/ Union pour le progrès national)  
/ Front pour la Démocratie au Burundi)

MECH, Somaly (Mrs /Mme)

KIM, San (Mr /M )

PENN, Christine (Mrs /Mme)

KHLANG, Oudam (Mr /M )

PHO, Sotheaphal (Mr /M )

Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

TOP, Saroeun (Mr /M )

Cameraman

Senator / *Sénatrice* (FUN)<sup>17</sup>Secretary-General / *Secrétaire général*Adviser to the President of the National Assembly  
*Conseillère du Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

IPU Relations Officer

*Chargé des relations avec l'IIP***CAMEROON - CAMEROUN**CAVAYE YEGUIE, Djibril (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

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SENDE, Pierre (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

BOTO À NGON, André (Mr /M )

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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

DAOUA, Youssoufa (Mrs /Mme)

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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

ENAME ENAME, Samson (Mr /M )

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NNOGO ONANA, Emmanuel (Mr /M )

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale* (CPDM)Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (CPDM)Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (CPDM)Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale* (CPDM)<sup>18</sup>Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*Assistant Director of International Relations  
*Sous-Directeur des relations internationales***CANADA**TORSNEY, Patricia (Ms /Mme)  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*

OLIVER, Donald (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council, Chairman, Inter-  
Parliamentary Foundation for Democracy  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Président de la  
fondation interparlementaire pour la démocratie*

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Substitute Member of the Committee on Human  
Rights of Parliamentarians  
*Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme  
des parlementaires*Member of the House of Commons, Parliamentary  
Secretary to the Minister of International  
Cooperation  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes, Secrétaire  
parlementaire de la ministre de la coopération  
internationale* (LIB)Senator / *Sénateur* (PC)Senator / *Sénatrice* (LIB)

<sup>17</sup> (FUN: United National Front / Front uni national)  
(CPP: Cambodian People's Party / Parti populaire cambodgien)

<sup>18</sup> (CPDM: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement / Rassemblement démocratique du peuple camerounais)

FRASER, Joan (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Executive Committee,  
Member of the Gender Partnership Group, President  
of the Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council,  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Groupe du  
partenariat entre hommes et femmes, Présidente du  
Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires,  
Membre du Conseil directeur*

HARB, Mac (Mr /M)

VELLACOTT, Maurice (Mr /M)

WASYLYCIA-LEIS, Judy (Ms /Mme)

JACKSON, Joseph (Mr /M)  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

COOL, Julie (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

PELLETIER, Serge (Mr /M)  
Acting Executive Secretary of the Group,  
International and Inter-parliamentary Affairs  
Directorate  
*Secrétaire administratif intérimaire du Groupe,  
Direction générale des affaires internationales et  
interparlementaires*

BOSC, Marc (Mr /M)  
Substitute Member of the ASGP  
*Membre suppléant de l'ASGP*

Senator / *Sénatrice* (LIB)

Senator / *Sénateur* (LIB)

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes* (PC)

Member of the House of Commons  
*Membre de la Chambre des Communes* (NDP)<sup>19</sup>

Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research  
Service, Library of Parliament  
*Analyste, Service d'information et de recherche  
parlementaires, Bibliothèque du Parlement*

Analyst, Parliamentary Information and Research  
Service, Library of Parliament  
*Analyste, Service d'information et de recherche  
parlementaires, Bibliothèque du Parlement*

Procedural Clerk, Office of the Deputy Clerk, Senate  
*Greffier à la procédure, Bureau du sous-greffier,  
Sénat*

Clerk Assistant, Committees, House of Commons  
*Greffier adjoint, Comités, Chambre des Communes*

## CHILE – CHILI

PROKURIÇA, Baldo (Mr /M)  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

MUÑOZ BARRA, Roberto (Mr /M)

ALLENDE BUSSI, Isabel (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes  
parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur*

CERONI FUENTES, Guillermo (Mr /M)

URIARTE HERRERA, Gonzalo (Mr /M)

BOENINGER KAUSEL, Edgardo (Mr /M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Senator / *Sénateur* (RN)

Senator / *Sénateur* (PPD)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (PS)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Member of the  
Committee on Constitution, Law and Justice  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Membre de la  
Commission de la Constitution, de la Législation et  
de la Justice* (PPD)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (UDI)

Senator / *Sénateur* (PDC)

<sup>19</sup> (LIB: Liberal Party  
(PC: Conservative Party  
(NDP: New Democratic Party

/ Parti libéral)  
( / Parti conservateur)  
( / Nouveau parti démocratique)

MEZA MONCADA, Fernando (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PR)*

LORENZINI BASSO, Pablo (Mr /M )  
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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)*

NORAMBUENA FARIAS, Ivan (Mr /M )  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (UDI)*

MONCKEBERG DÍAZ, Nicolás  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (RN)*<sup>20</sup>

HOFFMANN CONTRERAS, Carlos (Mr /M )  
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Secretary of the Senate  
*Secrétaire du Sénat*

PEILLARD GARCÍA, Jacqueline (Mrs /Mme)  
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*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

Secretary of the Environment Committee  
*Secrétaire de la Commission de l'environnement*

### CHINA – CHINE

HAN QIDE (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC

ZHOU ZHENGQING (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

*Vice-Président du Comité permanent de l'APN*  
Vice-Chairman of the Financial and Economic Committee of the NPC  
*Vice-Président du Comité des finances et de l'économie de l'APN*

LU CONGMIN (Mr /M )  
Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur*

Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of the NPC  
*Vice-Président du Comité des affaires étrangères de l'APN*

SHEN CHUNYAO (Mr /M )

Member of the Law Committee of the NPC  
*Membre du Comité législatif de l'APN*

FANG XIN (Mrs /Mme)  
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*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Education, Science, Culture and Public Health Committee of the NPC  
*Membre du Comité pour l'éducation, la science, la culture et la santé publique de l'APN*

SUN GONGYI (Mr /M )  
Assistant to Leader of the delegation  
*Assistant du Chef de la délégation*

YOU WENZE (Mr /M )  
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Division Director, Foreign Affairs Bureau of General Office of the NPC Standing Committee  
*Directeur, Bureau des affaires étrangères du Comité permanent de l'APN*

XIONG WEI (Mr /M )  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

HUANG YIYANG (Mr /M )  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

MA YONG (Mr /M )  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

YAO XIN (Mr /M )  
*Adviser / Conseiller*

<sup>20</sup> (RN: National Renovation Party  
(PPD: Party for Democracy  
(PS: Socialist Party  
(UDI: Independent Democratic Union  
(PDC: Christian Democratic Party  
(PR: Radical Party

/ Parti de rénovation nationale)  
(Parti pour la démocratie)  
(Parti socialiste)  
(Union démocrate indépendante)  
(Parti chrétien démocrate)  
(Parti radical)

ZHANG TONG (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

WANG AIHUA (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

SHEN YINYIN (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

ZHANG MINGJING (Mr /M )  
Interpreter  
*Interprète*

QIAN XINYI (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter  
*Interprète*

QIAN YANQING (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter  
*Interprète*

MA SHUJUN (Mr /M )  
Guard / *Agent de sécurité*

XING SHUAN QUAN (Mr /M )  
Guard / *Agent de sécurité*

### COLOMBIA – COLOMBIE

DUQUE, Luis Fernando (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

### COTE D'IVOIRE

BOA, Thiémélé (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (PDCI-RDA)*

AKOUN, Laurent (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the  
Committee on Security and Defence  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la  
Commission de la sécurité et de la défense (FPI)*

LOROUGNON GNABRY, Marie-Odette (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member and Secretary of the Bureau of the National  
Assembly  
*Membre et Secrétaire du Bureau de l'Assemblée  
nationale (FPI)<sup>21</sup>*

GUEHI, Brissi Lucas (Mr /M )  
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Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

N'ZI, Koffi (Mr /M )  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administratif du Groupe*

Leader of Parliamentary Debate  
*Chef des débats parlementaires*

<sup>21</sup> (PDCI: Democratic Party of Côte d'Ivoire  
(RDA: Africa Democratic Rally  
(FPI: Ivorian Popular Front

/ Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire)  
/ Rassemblement démocratique africain)  
/ Front populaire ivoirien)

## CUBA

CROMBET HERNANDEZ-BAQUERO, Jaime  
(Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

PEZ FERRO, Ramón (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur*

SERRANO PUIG, Kenia (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the  
Governing Council  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil  
directeur*

HERNANDEZ PEDRASA, Gladys (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

MARTINEZ CORDOVÉS, Ada (Mrs /Mme)  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administrative du Groupe*

Vice-President of the National Assembly of the  
People's Power  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir  
populaire*

Member of the National Assembly of the People's  
Power, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir  
populaire, Président de la Commission des affaires  
étrangères*

Member of the National Assembly of the People's  
Power, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale du Pouvoir  
populaire, Membre de la Commission des affaires  
étrangères*

## CYPRUS – CHYPRE

ANASTASIADES, Nicos (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

KLEANTHOUS, Nicos (Mr /M )

HADJIGEORGIOU, Takis (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Member of the  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre du Comité  
sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*

VARNAVA, George (Mr /M )

VASSILIOU, Androula (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

CHRISTOFOROU, Constantinos (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

SOCRATOUS, Socrates (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Chairman of the House Standing Committee on  
Foreign Affairs  
*Président de la Commission permanente des affaires  
étrangères (DISY)*

Member of the House of Representatives,  
Parliamentary Spokesman of the Democratic Party  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Porte-  
parole du Parti démocratique auprès du Parlement  
(DIKO)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (AKEL)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants  
(EDEK)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (EDI)<sup>22</sup>*

Secretary General of the House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants*

Acting Director, International Relations Service  
*Directeur par intérim des relations internationales*

<sup>22</sup> (DISY: Democratic Rally Party  
(DIKO: Democratic Party  
(AKEL: Progressive Party of the Working People  
(EDEK: Social Democratic Movement  
(EDI: United Democrats

/ Rassemblement démocratique)  
(Parti démocratique)  
(Parti progressiste des masses laborieuses)  
(Mouvement social-démocrate)  
(Parti démocrate uni)

**CZECH REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE**

EKERT, Milan (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
TLUSTY, Vlastimil (Mr /M )	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ODS)</i>
NEDVEDOVA, Veronika (Mrs /Mme) Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Human Rights of Parliamentarians <i>Vice-Présidente du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (ODS)</i>
KONICEK, Vladimír (Mr /M )	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CP)</i>
OSTRY, Vlastimil (Mr /M )	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
SCHLING, Jaromír (Mr /M )	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
FIALOVA, Jirina (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (CP)</i>
JULINEK, Tomas (Mr /M )	Senator, Caucus Chairman <i>Sénateur, Président de Groupe (ODS)</i>
POSPISIL, Jiri (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur (ODS)</i>
BARTAK, Karel (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur (I)</i>
BAREK, Ivo (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur (ČSSD)</i> <sup>23</sup>
KYNSTETR, Petr (Mr /M )	Secretary General of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Députés</i>
PELANT, Pavel (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire général du Sénat</i>
KRBEC, Jiri (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Head of International Relations Department of the Senate <i>Chef du Département des relations internationales du Sénat</i>
TUCKOVA, Alena (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

**DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
REPUBLIQUE POPULAIRE DEMOCRATIQUE DE COREE**

CHOE THAE BOK (Mr /M )	Chairman, Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea <i>Président de l'Assemblée populaire suprême de la République populaire démocratique de Corée</i>
KIM KYONG HO (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Deputy Director, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint du Bureau de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>

<sup>23</sup> (ODS: Civic Democratic Party  
(CP: Communist Party  
(I: Independent  
(ČSSD: Czech Social Democratic Party

/ Parti démocratique civique)  
/ Parti communiste)  
/ Indépendant)  
/ Parti social-démocrate tchèque)

MA CHOL SU (Mr /M )	Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur général, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
JO KUM CHOL (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Section-Chief, Department of Foreign Relations, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly <i>Chef de section, Département des relations extérieures du Bureau de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
CHOE YONG SU (Mr /M )	Department of Foreign Relations, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly <i>Département des relations extérieures du Bureau de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>
KIM CHUNG SONG (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Department of Foreign Relations, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly <i>Département des relations extérieures du Bureau de l'Assemblée populaire suprême</i>

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO

MARINI BODHO, Pierre (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Senate <i>Président du Sénat</i>
KUMBU ki LUTETE, Raphaël (Mr /M )	Third Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Troisième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (ANADER )</i>
KATUMWA, Vicky (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MOKOLO WAMPOMBO, Edouard (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator, Chairman, External Relations Committee <i>Sénateur, Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (FPC)</i>
ISOYONGO LOFETE, Pius (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman, External Relations Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (RDC/KML)</i>
BASSA, Chantal (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (RDC/N)</i>
LUPUMBA KAMANDA, Alphonse (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (OP/PO)<sup>24</sup></i>
BABI, Mbayi (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MASIKA KATSUVA, Martine (Mrs /Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Senate <i>Secrétaire générale du Sénat</i>
KABANGU DIBA NSESE, François (Mr /M ) Administrative Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire administratif du Groupe</i>	Director, External Relations, Senate <i>Directeur des relations extérieures au Sénat</i>
BELEPE, Canisius Arthur (Mr /M )	Chief, Office of the third Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly <i>Chef du Cabinet du troisième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
EGE UNEG, Etienne (Mr /M )	Assistant to the Speaker of the Senate <i>Assistant du Président du Sénat</i>

<sup>24</sup> (ANADER: National Alliance for Democracy and the Republic / Alliance nationale pour la démocratie et la République)  
(FPC: Conclave Political Forces / Forces politiques du conclave)  
(RDC/KML: Congolese Party for Democracy / Liberation Movement / Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie /  
Mouvement de libération)  
(RDC/N: Congolese Party for Democracy / National / Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie / National)  
(OP/PO: Political Opposition / Opposition politique)

**DENMARK - DANEMARK**

LARSEN, Pia (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (L)</i>
GJERSKOV, Mette (Mrs /Mme) Vice-President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, <i>Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (S)</i>
ANDERSEN, Hans (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (L)</i>
BROSBØL, Kirsten (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (S)</i>
CHRISTENSEN, Carina (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (C)</i>
ANTONSEN, Charlotte (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Folketing <i>Membre du Folketing (L)</i> <sup>25</sup>
SKYDT, Anja Riber (Ms /Mme) Adviser and Secretary <i>Conseillère et Secrétaire</i>	
ANDERSEN, Bente (Ms /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

**ECUADOR - EQUATEUR**

VALLEJO LOPEZ, Carlos (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Congress, President of the International Affairs and Defense Committee <i>Membre du Congrès national, Président de la Commission des affaires internationales et de la défense (PRIAN)</i>
AGUIRRE RIOFRIO, Soledad (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Congress <i>Membre du Congrès national (DP)</i> <sup>26</sup>
ASTUDILLO IBARRA, Guillermo (Mr /M )	Secretary General of the National Congress <i>Secrétaire général du Congrès national</i>

**EGYPT - EGYPTE**

SOROUR, Ahmed Fathy (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the People's Assembly <i>Président de l'Assemblée du peuple</i>
ELSHAZLY, Kamal (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Minister for People's Assembly Affairs <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du peuple, Ministre des affaires de l'Assemblée du peuple</i>
AZMY, Zakaria (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du peuple</i>

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<sup>25</sup> (L: Liberal Party / Parti libéral (Venstre))  
(S: Social Democratic Party / Parti social-démocrate)  
(C: Conservative People's Party / Parti populaire conservateur)

<sup>26</sup> (PRIAN: Institutional Renewal Party of National Action / Parti rénovateur institutionnel d'action nationale)  
(DP: Popular Democracy / Démocratie populaire)

ABU EL INEEN, Mohammed (Mr /M )

Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of  
Construction and Rehabilitation Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée du peuple, Président de la  
Commission de la construction et de la réhabilitation*

EL-ALFY, Said (Mr /M )

Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of  
Parliamentarians, Member of the Committee on  
Middle East Questions  
*Membre du Comité des droits de l'homme des  
parlementaires, Membre du Comité sur les Questions  
relatives au Moyen-Orient*Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the  
Economic Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée du peuple, Président de la  
Commission des affaires économiques*

QELINI, Georgette (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the People's Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée du peuple*

BASSIONY, Mohammed (Mr /M )

Member of the Consultative Council (Shura),  
Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif (Choura), Président  
de la Commission des relations extérieures*

YOUNIS, Shawki (Mr /M )

Member of the Consultative Council  
*Membre du Conseil consultatif*

MAHRAN, Samy (Mr /M )

Secretary-General of the People's Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée du peuple*

KHAFAGI, Sherif (Mr /M )

Deputy Secretary-General of the People's Assembly  
*Secrétaire général adjoint de l'Assemblée du peuple*

EL SHIEKH, Yousri (Mr /M )

Director of the Cabinet of the President of the  
People's Assembly  
*Directeur du Cabinet du Président de l'Assemblée du  
peuple*

SHAHIN, Hassan (Mr /M )

Secretary of International Relations  
*Secrétaire des relations internationales*

GAMAL ELDIN, Walid (Mr /M )

**EL SALVADOR**MACHUCA ZELAYA, Jose Rafael (Mr /M )  
Vice-President of the Standing Committee on  
Democracy and Human Rights, Member of the  
Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la  
démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Membre du  
Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Legislative Assembly, Representative  
of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée législative, Représentant du  
Président de l'Assemblée législative (PCN)*

REYES, Carlos (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Legislative Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée législative*

CORVERA, Luis (Mr /M )

Member of the Legislative Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée législative (FMLN)<sup>27</sup>***ESTONIA - ESTONIE**

EESMAA, Enn (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Riigikogu  
*Membre du Riigikogu (ECeP)*<sup>27</sup> (PCN: National Conciliation Party  
(FMLN: Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front/ Parti de conciliation nationale)  
/ Front de libération nationale Farabundo Marti)

TOMSON, Ela (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Riigikogu  
*Membre du Riigikogu (RP)*

TÕNISSON, Liina (Mrs /Mme)  
Substitute Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre suppléante du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Riigikogu  
*Membre du Riigikogu (I)*<sup>28</sup>

SIBUL, Heiki (Mr /M)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Riigikogu  
*Secrétaire général du Riigikogu*

MILT, Annika (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

### ETHIOPIA - ETHIOPIE

TESHOME, Mulatu (Mr /M)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the House of Federation  
*Président du Conseil fédéral (EPRDF)*<sup>29</sup>

TADESSE, Asnake (Mr /M)

Secretary General of the House of People's  
Representatives  
*Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants  
du peuple*

SELASSE, Asmelah (Mr /M)

Chairman of the Legal Affairs Standing Committee  
*Président de la Commission permanente des affaires  
juridiques*

TADESSE, Genet (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Chairperson of the Women Affairs Standing  
Committee  
*Présidente de la Commission permanente des  
questions relatives aux femmes*

ANEMUT, Bereded (Mr /M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affairs, Security and  
Defense Standing Committee  
*Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires  
étrangères, de la sécurité et de la défense*

BEYENE, Ethiopia (Mrs /Mme)

Deputy Chairperson of the Women Affairs Standing  
Committee  
*Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente des  
questions relatives aux femmes*

ALEMAYCHU, Samuel (Mr /M)

Secretary General of the House of Federation  
*Secrétaire général du Conseil fédéral*

### FIJI - FIDJI

NAILATIKAU, Ratu Espeli (Mr /M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Speaker, House of Representatives  
*Président de la Chambre des Représentants*

SALABULA, Losena (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Assistant Minister for Women, Social Welfare and  
Poverty Alleviation  
*Ministre déléguée à la condition de la femme, aux  
affaires sociales et à la lutte contre la pauvreté*

NARAYAN, Udit (Mr /M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

<sup>28</sup> (ECeP: Estonian Centre Party  
(RP: Res Publica)  
(I: Independents)  
<sup>29</sup> (EPRDF: Ethiopian People's Revolutionary  
Democratic Front

/ Parti du centre)  
(Indépendants)  
(Front révolutionnaire démocratique  
du peuple éthiopien)

CHAPMAN, Mary (Mrs /Mme)

Secretary-General to Parliament  
*Secrétaire générale du Parlement***FINLAND - FINLANDE**KOMI, Katri (Ms /Mme)  
President of the Group, Member of the Executive  
Committee, Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Comité exécutif,  
Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Eduskunta  
*Membre de l'Eduskunta (KESK)*LAAKSO, Jaakko (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Eduskunta  
*Membre de l'Eduskunta (VL)*PUISTO, Virpa (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Eduskunta  
*Membre de l'Eduskunta (SDP)*

VISTBACKA, Raimo (Mr /M )

Member of the Eduskunta  
*Membre de l'Eduskunta (TF)*

LAMMINEN, Kalevi (Mr /M )

Member of the Eduskunta  
*Membre de l'Eduskunta (KOK)<sup>30</sup>*TIITINEN, Seppo (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General of the Eduskunta  
*Secrétaire général de l'Eduskunta*KANGASKORPI, Vesa-Pekka (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*NOLVI, Katja (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation***FRANCE**DEL PICCHIA, Robert Denis (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*Senator / *Sénateur (UMP)*SALLES, Rudy (Mr /M )  
Vice-President of the Executive Committee  
*Vice-Président du Comité exécutif*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UDF)*MARTIN-LALANDE, Patrice (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UMP)*BERGÉ-LAVIGNE, Maryse (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council, Member of the  
Committee on Middle East Questions  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre du Comité  
sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*Senator / *Sénatrice (PS)*GAUTIER, Gisèle (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians  
*Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes  
parlementaires*Senator / *Sénatrice (UC)*

<sup>30</sup> (KESK: Centre Party  
(VL: Left-Wing Alliance  
(SDP: Social Democratic Party  
(TF: True Finns  
(KOK: National Coalition Party

/ Parti du centre)  
(Alliance de gauche)  
(Parti social-démocrate)  
(« Finlandais authentiques »)  
(Coalition nationale)

COLOT, Geneviève (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UMP)
LAFFINEUR, Marc (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UMP) <sup>31</sup>
FAURE, Jean (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
DELAMARE- DEBOUTTEVILLE, Olivier (Mr /M ) Executive Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe</i>	Deputy Director, International Relations Office of the Senate <i>Directeur adjoint du Bureau des relations internationales au Sénat</i>
de CORDOVEZ, Bertrand (Mr /M ) Executive Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire exécutif du Groupe</i>	Head of the International Parliamentary Relations, National Assembly <i>Chef de la Division des relations parlementaires internationales, Assemblée nationale</i>
CHALET, Bernard (Mr /M ) Logistics Officer <i>Chargé de la logistique</i>	Administrative Secretary at the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire administratif à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ROQUES, Xavier (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Questure of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général de la Questure de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
PONCEAU, Hélène (Mrs /Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Questure of the Senate <i>Secrétaire générale de la Questure du Sénat</i>
DELCAMP, Alain (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, Communication and Technology Development, Senate <i>Directeur général de la communication et du développement technologique au Sénat</i>
SLAMA, Frédéric (Mr /M ) ASGP Joint Secretary / <i>Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	Administrator, National Assembly <i>Administrateur à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
BEAUME, Roland (Mr /M ) Administrative Secretary of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire administratif de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary, National Assembly <i>Secrétaire, Assemblée nationale</i>

**GABON**

NDJAVE-NDJOY, Albert (Mr /M ) Vice-President, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Deuxième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
KASSA MAPSI, Emile (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Fourth Vice-President of the Senate <i>Quatrième Vice-Président du Sénat</i> (PDG)
MACKAYA TAMANE , Louis Marie (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
BOUSSOUGHOU, Jean Félicien (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (PDG)
BIYOGO OBAME, Robert (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (RPG)

<sup>31</sup> (UMP: Union for the Presidential Majority  
(UDF: Union for French Democracy  
(PS: Socialist Party  
(UC: Centrist Union

/ Union pour la majorité présidentielle)  
(Union pour la démocratie française)  
(Parti socialiste)  
(Union centriste)

MOULENGUI MOUELE, Sophie (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Senator, Deputy Chairperson of the Finance  
Committee  
*Sénatrice, Vice-Présidente de la Commission des  
Finances (PDG)*<sup>32</sup>

REMBENDAMBIA, Gaston (Mr /M )

Deputy Secretary General of the Senate  
*Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat*

PUCETTI, Marie-Françoise (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Deputy Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire générale adjointe de l'Assemblée nationale*

### GEORGIA – GEORGIE

GABASHVILI, Konstantin (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of Parliament, Chairman of the Foreign  
Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Parlement, Président du Comité des  
affaires étrangères*

CHICHINADZE, Alexander (Mr /M )  
Secretary / *Secrétaire*

CHICHINADZE, Teimuraz (Mr /M )  
Consul

### GERMANY - ALLEMAGNE

LAMMERT, Norbert (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Vice-President of the Bundestag  
*Vice-Président du Bundestag (CDU/CSU)*

GRIEFAHN, Monika (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Focal Point UNESCO  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Personne relais  
UNESCO*

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (SPD)*

PFLUG, Johannes (Mr /M )

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (SPD)*

FUCHTEL, Hans-Joachim (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (CDU/CSU)*

RAIDEL, Hans (Mr /M )  
Substitute Member of the Committee on Middle East  
Questions  
*Membre suppléant du Comité sur les questions  
relatives au Moyen-Orient*

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (CDU/CSU)*

WINKLER, Josef Philip (Mr /M )

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (B90/Die Grünen)*

OBER, Erika (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (SPD)*

KRUEGER-LEISSNER, Angelika (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Bundestag  
*Membre du Bundestag (SPD)*<sup>33</sup>

GIESECKE, Bettina (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Counsellor, German Bundestag  
*Conseillère du Bundestag*

<sup>32</sup> (PDG: Gabonese Democratic Party / Parti démocratique gabonais)  
(RPG: Rally for Gabon / Rassemblement pour le Gabon)

<sup>33</sup> (CDU: Christian Democratic Union / Union chrétienne démocrate)  
(CSU: Christian Social Union / Union chrétienne sociale)  
(SPD: Social Democratic Party of Germany / Parti social démocrate)  
(B90/Die Grünen: Alliance 90/The Greens / Alliance 90/Verts)

HANKE-GIESERS, Britta (Mrs /Mme)

Head, Inter-Parliamentary Organisations Division,  
German Bundestag  
*Chef de la Division des organisations  
interparlementaires du Bundestag*

MIELENZ, Michaela (Mrs /Mme)

Inter-Parliamentary Organisations Division, German  
Bundestag  
*Division des organisations interparlementaires du  
Bundestag*

Assistant to the Group

*Assistante du Groupe*

BOU-SAID, Andrea (Mrs /Mme)

Inter-Parliamentary Organisations Division  
*Division des organisations interparlementaires*

Assistant to the Group / *Assistante du Groupe*

SCHOELER, Ulrich (Mr /M )

Director, International Relations Directorate, German  
Bundestag  
*Directeur de la Direction des relations internationales  
du Bundestag*

Member of the ASGP

*Membre de l'ASGP*

FISCHER, Wolfgang (Mr /M )

Head, Office of the President, German Bundesrat  
*Chef du Bureau du Président du Bundesrat*

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

ABRAHAM, Knut (Mr /M )

Foreign Office / *Affaires étrangères*

## GHANA

SEKYI HUGHES, Ebenezer Begyina (Mr /M )

Speaker of Parliament

President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation

*Président du Parlement*

*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*

OWUSU-ADJAPONG, Felix K (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament, Minister of Parliamentary  
Affairs, Majority Leader

Titular Member of the Committee on Middle-East

Questions, Member of the Governing Council

*Membre titulaire du Comité sur les questions  
relatives au Moyen-Orient, Membre du Conseil  
directeur*

*Membre du Parlement, Ministre des affaires  
parlementaires, Chef de la majorité (NPP)*

BAGBIN, Alban Kingsford Sumana (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament, Minority Leader

Substitute Vice-President of the Standing Committee  
on Democracy and Human Rights

*Membre du Parlement, Chef de la minorité (NDC)*

*Vice-Président suppléant de la Commission  
permanente de la démocratie et des droits de  
l'homme*

OSSEI-AIDOO, Abraham (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament, Deputy Majority Leader  
*Membre du Parlement, Chef adjoint de la majorité  
(NPP)*

KYEI-MENSAH-BONSU, Osei (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament, Majority Chief Whip  
*Membre du Parlement, Chef de file de la majorité  
(NPP)*

GBEDIAME, Gershon K B (Mr /M )

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (NDC)*

DAPAAH, Esther Obeng (Mrs /Mme)

Member of Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement (NPP)<sup>34</sup>*

Member of the Governing Council

*Membre du Conseil directeur*

TACHIE, Kenneth Enos Kofi (Mr /M )

Clerk / *Greffier*

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

ANYIMADU, Emmanuel (Mr /M )

Principal Assistant Clerk of Parliament  
*Assistant principal du Greffier du Parlement*

Secretary to the delegation

*Secrétaire de la délégation*

KUGBLENU, Jones T (Mr /M )

Director of Public Affairs  
*Directeur des affaires publiques*

Adviser / *Conseiller*

<sup>34</sup> (NPP: New Patriotic Party  
(NDC: National Democratic Congress

/ Nouveau parti patriotique)  
( / Congrès démocratique national)

BENTUM-WILLIAMS, John (Mr/M)  
Ambassador / *Ambassadeur*

### GREECE - GRECE

PAPADIMITRIOU, Elsa (Mrs/Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (ND)

GEORGAKOPOULOS, Dimitris (Mr/M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (PASOK)

LEVENTIS, Athanasios (Mr/M)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (SYN)

KEDIKOGLOU, Simos (Mr/M)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (ND)

RIGAS, Panayotis (Mr/M)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés* (PASOK)<sup>35</sup>

VASSILOUNI, Stavroula (Mrs/Mme)  
*Adviser / Conseillère*

PAPAKOSTAS, George (Mr/M)  
Embassy Counsellor for ASGP  
*Conseiller d'ambassade pour l'ASGP*

GERASIDI, Mina (Mrs/Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

GEORGAKOPOULOU, Erato-Sofia (Mrs/Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

GALIOU, Pinelopi (Mrs/Mme)  
*Journalist / Journaliste*

MAVROZOUMI, Argiro (Mrs/Mme)  
*Journalist / Journaliste*

CHRISTOPOULOS, Charalampos (Mr/M)  
Ambassador / *Ambassadeur*

### GUATEMALA

MALDONADO AGUIRRE, Alejandro (Mr/M)  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation,  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation,*

First Vice-President of the Executive Committee of  
the Congress of the Republic  
*Premier Vice-Président du Bureau du Congrès de la  
République* (PU)

AREVALO BARRIOS, Edgar Leonel (Mr/M)

Member of the Congress of the Republic, Member of  
the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre du Congrès de la République, Membre de  
la Commission des affaires étrangères* (FRG)

RIOS-MONTT DE WELLER, Zury Mayte (Mrs/Mme)  
President of the GRULAC, Member of the Governing  
Council  
*Présidente du GRULAC, Membre du Conseil  
directeur*

Member of the Congress of the Republic, Member of  
the Committee on External Relations  
*Membre du Congrès de la République, Membre de  
la Commission des relations extérieures* (FRG)

<sup>35</sup> (ND: New Democracy  
(PASOK: Panhellenic Socialist Movement  
(SYN: Coalition of the Radical Left

/ Nouvelle démocratie)  
(Mouvement socialiste panhellénique)  
(Coalition de la gauche radicale)

LOWENTHAL FONCEA, Julio (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Congress of the Republic, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on External Relations  
*Membre du Congrès de la République, Vice-Président de la Commission des relations extérieures (PSN)*

MARTINEZ LOAIZA, Jaime Antonio (Mr /M )

Member of the Congress of the Republic  
*Membre du Congrès de la République (GANA)*<sup>36</sup>

### GUINEA - GUINEE

BAH, Ousmane (Mr /M )  
Member of the Committee on Middle East Questions,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPR)*<sup>37</sup>

BANGOURA, Hadja Hawa (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

KPOGOU MOU, Henry Toffany (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

### HUNGARY – HONGRIE

HÁRS, Gábor (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSzP)*

VADAI, Ágnes (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSzP)*

CSAPODY, Miklós (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Membre de la Commission des affaires étrangères (MDF)*

SZABÓ, Zoltán (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MSzP)*

WEKLER, Ferenc (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SzDSz)*<sup>38</sup>

SÁRDI, Péter (Mr /M )

Head, Office of Foreign Relations  
*Chef du Bureau des relations étrangères*

HORVÁTH, Zoltán (Mr /M )

Head of the European Union Department  
*Chef du Département de l'Union européenne*

KOVÁCS, László (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Chief Counsellor / *Conseiller principal*

SOMFAI ÁDÁM, Katalin (Mrs /Mme)  
Assistant Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire adjointe du Groupe*

Senior Counsellor / *Conseillère*

<sup>36</sup> (PU: Unionist Party  
(FRG: Guatemalan Republican Front  
(PSN: National Solidarity Party  
(GANA: Great National Alliance  
<sup>37</sup> (UPR: Union for Progress and Renewal  
<sup>38</sup> (MSzP: Hungarian Socialist Party  
(MDF: Hungarian Democratic Forum  
(SzDSz: Alliance of Free Democrats

/ Parti unioniste)  
/ Front républicain du Guatemala)  
/ Parti de la Solidarité nationale)  
/ Grande alliance nationale)  
/ Union pour le progrès et le renouveau)  
/ Parti socialiste hongrois)  
/ Forum démocratique hongrois)  
/ Alliance des démocrates libres)

**ICELAND - ISLANDE**

GUDFINNSSON, Einar K (Mr /M ) President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Althingi <i>Membre de l'Althingi (IP)</i>
MÖLLER, Kristján (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Althingi <i>Membre de l'Althingi (SDA)</i>
ARNASON, Hjalmar (Mr /M )	Member of the Althingi <i>Membre de l'Althingi (PP)</i> <sup>39</sup>
THERIAULT, Belinda (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director of the Althingi International Department <i>Directrice du Département international de l'Althingi</i>
BERNODUSSON, Helgi (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>

**INDIA - INDE**

CHATTERJEE, Somnath (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker, Lok Sabha <i>Président du Lok Sabha</i>
KHAN, Rahman (Mr /M )	Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha <i>Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha</i>
ATWAL, Charnjit Singh (Mr /M )	Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha <i>Vice-Président du Lok Sabha</i>
MAHAJAN, Sumitra (Mrs /Mme)	Member of Lok Sabha <i>Membre du Lok Sabha (BJP)</i>
SHERWANI, Saleem Iqbal (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Lok Sabha <i>Membre du Lok Sabha (SP)</i>
BANSAL, Pawan Kumar (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Lok Sabha <i>Membre du Lok Sabha (INC)</i>
SALIM, Mohammad (Mr /M )	Member of Lok Sabha <i>Membre du Lok Sabha (CPM)</i>
SINGH, Maya (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Rajya Sabha <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha (BJP)</i> <sup>40</sup>
SEELAM, Jesudasu (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Rajya Sabha <i>Membre du Rajya Sabha</i>
MALHOTRA, G C (Mr /M ) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General, Lok Sabha <i>Secrétaire général, Lok Sabha</i>
JOSHI, N C (Mr /M )	Additional Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Rajya Sabha</i>

<sup>39</sup> (IP: Independence Party  
(SDA: Social Democratic Alliance  
(PP: Progressive Party

<sup>40</sup> (BJP: Bharatiya Janata Party  
(SP: Samajwadi Party  
(INC: Indian National Congress  
(CPM: Communist Party of India (Marxist)

/ Parti de l'Indépendance)  
/ Alliance social-démocratique)  
/ Parti du Progrès)  
/ Parti nationaliste hindou)  
/ Parti socialiste)  
/ Congrès national indien)  
/ Parti communiste indien (marxiste)

NAIR, M Rajagopalan (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
KUMAR, T (Mrs /Mme)	Principal Secretary to Speaker, Lok Sabha <i>Secrétaire principale du Président du Lok Sabha</i>
SHEKAR, Bal (Mr /M )	Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat <i>Secrétaire adjoint, Secrétariat du Lok Sabha</i>
RAMESH, V R (Mr /M )	Secretary to the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président, Lok Sabha</i>
SINGH, Rakesh (Mr /M )	Officer on Special Duty to Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha <i>Agent détaché auprès du Vice-Président du Rajya Sabha</i>
KOUL, P C (Mr /M )	Under Secretary, Lok Sabha <i>Sous-Secrétaire, Lok Sabha</i>
CHATURVEDI, Pradeep (Mr /M )	Under Secretary, Rajya Sabha <i>Sous-Secrétaire, Rajya Sabha</i>
KUMAR, Prasanna (Mr /M )	Media Officer to Speaker, Lok Sabha <i>Responsable des médias auprès du Président du Lok Sabha</i>
SEETHARAM, T P (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
NAIDU, Nagaraju (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
KUJUR, H N (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
SWAMINATHAN, K (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	Assistant, Ministry of External Affairs <i>Assistant, Ministère des affaires extérieures</i>

**INDONESIA - INDONESIE**

LAKSONO, Agung (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
SOERJOGOERITNO, Soetarjo (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i>
HASSAN, Amris (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Committee <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission interparlementaire (PDI-P)</i>
AOER, Cyprianus (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PDI-P)</i>
MALIK, Antarini (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PG)</i>
ICHWANSYAH, Musa (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PPP)</i>
SYUJA', Imam (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PAN)<sup>41</sup></i>

<sup>41</sup> (PDI-P: Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle  
(PG: Golkar Party  
(PPP: United Development Party  
(PAN: National Mandate Party

/ Parti démocrate indonésien en lutte)  
(Golkar)  
(Parti uni pour le développement)  
(Parti du mandat national)

WAHOHO, Sugeng (Mr /M ) Adviser / Conseiller	
DARSINI, I G A (Mrs /Mme) Member of the ASGP / Membre de l'ASGP	Deputy Secretary General Secrétaire générale adjointe
SUTHARSA, Tatang (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Administrative Secretary Secrétaire administratif
DJUMADI, Untung (Mr /M ) Secretary to the Leader of the delegation Secrétaire du Chef de la délégation	Parliamentary Staff Secrétariat du Parlement
SARTOMO (Mr /M ) Secretary to the Leader of the delegation Secrétaire du Chef de la délégation	Parliamentary Staff Secrétariat du Parlement
RETNOASTUTI, Endah (Ms /Mme) Secretary to the delegation Secrétaire de la délégation	Parliamentary Staff Secrétariat du Parlement
SANUSI (Mr /M ) Indonesian Mission / Mission de l'Indonésie	
INDRA JAYA, Heri (Mr /M ) Indonesian Mission / Mission de l'Indonésie	

#### IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF) – IRAN (REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE D')

YAHYAVI, S Mohsen (Mr /M ) Secretary General of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
MOTTAKI, Manoucher (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Substitute Member of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council Président du Groupe, Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme des parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
MESBAHI MOGHADAM, Gholamreza (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
AKHAVAN BITARAFI, Nayereh (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
MOUSAVI, S Nasser (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
MOUSAVI, S Morteza (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
HOSSEINI, S Jalal (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
NADIMI, Iraj (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
JAHANGIRZADEH, Javad (Mr /M )	Member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Membre de l'Assemblée consultative islamique
HASHEMI, Seyyed Javad (Mr /M ) Administrative Secretary of the Group Secrétaire administratif du Groupe	Deputy Director General for Protocol and International Affairs of the Islamic Consultative Assembly Directeur général adjoint du protocole et des affaires internationales de l'Assemblée consultative islamique

GHASSEMPOUR, Amir Abbas (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senior Expert of the Inter-Parliamentary Secretariat of the Islamic Consultative Assembly <i>Expert principal du Secrétariat interparlementaire de l'Assemblée consultative islamique</i>
ZAMANI NIA, Amir Hossein (Mr /M )	Director General, International and Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Adviser <i>Directeur général, Affaires internationales et politiques, Ministère des affaires étrangères, Conseiller</i>
AMOUEE, Ali (Mr /M )	Deputy Director-General for Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur général adjoint des affaires parlementaires, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
ABOLHASANI SHAHREZA, Ali (Mr /M )	Head of Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur du département politique, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
RASHID-O-ISLAMI, Moshen (Mr /M )	Deputy Head of Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Directeur adjoint du département politique, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
SADRKHA, Haskar (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Expert, Political Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Expert, Département politique, Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
GHASHGHAVI, Mehdi (Mr /M )	Protocol Officer <i>Responsable du protocole</i>
KALANTARI (Mr /M ) Ambassador / <i>Ambassadeur</i>	
PARVAZ, Ramazan (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	

**IRELAND - IRLANDE**

KIELY, Rory (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of Seanad Éireann <i>Président de Seanad Éireann</i>
KELLEHER, Billy (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Member of the Twelve Plus Group <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre du Groupe des Douze Plus</i>	Member of Dáil Éireann <i>Membre de Dáil Éireann (FF)</i>
PERRY, John (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Member of the Twelve Plus Group <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre du Groupe des Douze Plus</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FG)</i>
KEAVENEY, Cecilia (Ms /Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Member of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre de la Réunion des femmes parlementaires</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
WALLACE, Dan (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
LYDON, Don (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur (FF)</i>

BRADY, Martin (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (FF)</i>
McHUGH, Paddy (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (I)<sup>42</sup></i>
LANE, Deirdre (Mrs /Mme) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of Seanad Éireann <i>Greffière de Seanad Éireann</i>
HAYES, Cáit (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	

**ISRAEL - ISRAËL**

WHBEE, Majalli (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Knesset <i>Membre de la Knesset (L)</i>
BLUMENTHAL, Naomi (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Knesset <i>Membre de la Knesset (L)</i>
PORAZ, Avraham (Mr /M )	Member of the Knesset <i>Membre de la Knesset (S)</i>
VILAN, Avshalom (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Knesset <i>Membre de la Knesset (M)<sup>43</sup></i>
HAHN, Arie (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General / <i>Secrétaire général</i>
LEVY, Yaakov (Mr /M )	Diplomatic Adviser <i>Conseiller diplomatique</i>
RATZABI, Mira (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Assistant to the Head of the Foreign Affairs Department <i>Assistante du Chef du Département des affaires étrangères</i>
LEVIT, Dan (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
GWETA, Avraham (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	

**ITALY - ITALIE**

NAPOLI, Angela (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (AN)<sup>44</sup></i>
MANTOVANI, Ramon (Mr /M )	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
RODEGHIERO, Flavio (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>

<sup>42</sup> (FF: Fianna Fáil)  
(FG: Fine Gael)

(I: Independents  
(S: Shinui)  
(M: Meretz)

<sup>44</sup> (AN: National Alliance

/ Indépendants)

/ Alliance nationale)

SODA, Antonio (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés*

SORBELLO, Roberto (Mr /M )

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*DELFINO, Daniela (Mrs /Mme)  
Executive Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire exécutive du Groupe*RADONI, Susanna (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*DI PIETRO, Cristina (Ms /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*LASORSA, Antonella (Ms /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*OLMEDA, Claudio (Mr /M )  
Interpreter / *Interprète*CONKLIN, Valerie (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*ACCARRINO, Luisa (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary to the ASGP / *Secrétaire de l'ASGP*SEBASTIANI, Pietro (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller***JAPAN - JAPON**KAWARA, Tsutomu (Mr /M )  
Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the  
Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil  
directeur, Chef de la délégation*Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*ARIMURA, Haruko (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member, House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers*

INOUE, Kiichi (Mr /M )

Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*KAWAMURA, Takashi (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

ISHIGE, Eiko (Mrs /Mme)

Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

KAKAZU, Chiken (Mr /M )

Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

FUKUI, Teru (Mr /M )

Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

KOMIYAMA, Yasuko (Ms /Mme)

Member, House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

INUZUKA, Tadashi (Mr /M )

Member, House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers*

KATOH, Shuichi (Mr /M )

Member, House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers*

MITAMURA, Hideto (Mr /M )

Director General, International Affairs Department,  
House of Representatives  
*Directeur général, Département des affaires  
internationales, Chambre des Représentants*

IMAI, Kazuo (Mr /M )	Associate Director for General Affairs, Member Services Division, General Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Directeur assistant aux affaires générales, Division des Services aux membres, Département des affaires générales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
FUJII, Koji (Mr /M )	Assistant Director, Research Division, Committees Department, House of Representatives <i>Directeur adjoint, Division de la Recherche, Département des Commissions, Chambre des Représentants</i>
AOYAMA, Ume (Mrs /Mme)	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Directrice adjointe, Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
YAMAMOTO, Hironori (Mr /M )	Assistant Director, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Directeur adjoint, Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
YAMADA, Akiko (Mrs /Mme)	Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations Division, International Affairs Department, House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire, Division des relations interparlementaires, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Représentants</i>
ARAKI, Kiyoshi (Mr /M ) Substitute Member of the ASGP <i>Membre suppléant de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors <i>Directeur général, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
IDAKA, Ikuo (Mr /M )	Deputy Director General, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors <i>Directeur général adjoint, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
HASE, Akihiro (Mr /M )	Secretary, International Conferences Division, International Affairs Department, House of Councillors <i>Secrétaire, Division des Conférences internationales, Département des affaires internationales, Chambre des Conseillers</i>
ONISHI, Tsutomu (Mr /M ) Substitute Member of the ASGP <i>Membre suppléant de l'ASGP</i>	Director General, Research Bureau, House of Representatives <i>Directeur général, Bureau de la recherche, Chambre des Représentants</i>
SATA, Takeo (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Researcher, General Affairs Division of the Research Bureau, House of Representatives <i>Chercheur, Division des affaires générales du Bureau de la recherche, Chambre des Représentants</i>
TAKEYAMA, Yoshiko (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
OTA, Midori (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SOEDA, Yoshiko (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
SUNABA, Yuri (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

KAWAMURA, Shiho (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*  
METTLER, Yoko (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*  
CHIDA, Hiroko (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*  
KOJIRO, Brown Noriko (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*  
YAMAGUCHI, Emiko (Mrs /Mme)  
Interpreter / *Interprète*

**JORDAN - JORDANIE**

MAJALI, Abdullhadi (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABULGAHNAM, Fawaz (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
AL-MASRI, Salwa (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians <i>Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
AL-RIHMI, Mefleh (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
HALAIQAH, Moh'd (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
ATEAH, Khalil (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ZURIKAT, Abdullah (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ROSAN, Nareman (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
AQEL, Mohammad (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
FREHAT, Abdullah (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
AL-SHAWABKEH, Fayez (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ABU BAQAR, Shehadeh (Mr /M ) Adviser to the Speaker <i>Conseiller du Président</i>	
AL-ZYOUD, Ali (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Director of Public Relations Department, Senate <i>Directeur du Département des relations publiques au Sénat</i>
ADWAN, Firas (Mr /M )	Director of the Speaker's Office <i>Directeur du Bureau du Président</i>
HADDAD, Sameh (Mr /M )	Press Adviser (Senate) <i>Conseiller pour la presse (Sénat)</i>

TARAWNEH, Hassan (Mr /M )

Head, Parliamentary Affairs Department  
*Directeur du Département des affaires parlementaires***KAZAKHSTAN**BAIMAGAMBETOVA, Bagila (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women  
Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes  
parlementaires, Chef de la délégation*Member of the Assembly, Deputy Chairperson of the  
International Affairs, Defence and Security  
Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée, Vice-présidente de la  
Commission des affaires internationales, de la  
défense et de la sécurité*JALMAGAMBETOVA, Svetlana (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Senate, Member of the Committee on  
Social and Cultural Development  
*Membre du Sénat, Membre de la Commission pour  
le développement social et culturel*KIST, Viktor (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the Senate, Member of the Committee on  
Social and Cultural Development  
*Membre du Sénat, Membre de la Commission pour  
le développement social et culturel (Otan)*<sup>45</sup>KASSYMBEKOV, Talgat (Mr /M )  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administratif du Groupe*Senior Adviser at the International Affairs and  
Protocol Department  
*Conseiller au Département des affaires  
internationales et du protocole***KENYA**OLE KAPARO, Francis (Mr /M )  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*LIGALE, Andrew (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NARC)*MUGO, Beth (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NARC)*ONIANG'O, Ruth (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (KANU)*

GITURA, Kembi (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (NARC)*

MANDUKU, Hezron (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (FORD-People)*<sup>46</sup>

NDINDIRI, Samuel (Mr /M )

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

MWANGI, James (Mr /M )

Head of Secretariat  
*Chef du Secrétariat*THURANIRA, Anita (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*MUKUNYA, Nancy (Mrs /Mme)  
Personal Assistant to Speaker  
*Assistante personnelle du Président*<sup>45</sup> (Otan: Republic Party / Parti républicain)<sup>46</sup> (NARC: National Rainbow Coalition / Coalition nationale Arc-en-ciel)  
(KANU: Kenyan African National Union / Union nationale africaine du Kenya)  
(FORD-People: Forum for the Restoration of Democracy / Forum de la démocratie)

MBOGO, Pamela (Mrs /Mme)  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

AMADI, Stella (Mrs /Mme)  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

MUNGASIA, Henry (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

CHEMWENO, Peter (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

KANYIHA, Mary (Mrs /Mme)  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

KIHARA, Kennedy (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

AMAYO, Lazarus (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

ROTICH, Reuben (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

KIBIEGO, Joel (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

MANYALA, Joseph (Mr /M )  
114<sup>th</sup> Assembly Organising Committee  
*Comité d'organisation de la 114<sup>ème</sup> Assemblée*

**KUWAIT - KOWEÏT**

AL-KHARAFI, Jassim (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Parliament <i>Président du Parlement</i>
AL-TABTABAE, Waleed (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-HAMMAD, Salem (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-ENEZI, Awwad (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-AWADI, Abdulwahid (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL-JERRI, Waleed (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
AL MOSHARJI, Sharidah (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>
AL WEHAIB, Tawfeeq (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
GHULOUM, Jaafar (Mr /M )	
AL-DUWAISAN, Mohamad (Mr /M )	
AL-ENEZI, Shehab (Mr /M )	
AL-DEHAINI, Thiyab (Mr /M )	

AL-AJMI, Abdullah (Mr /M )  
AL-DAMKHI, Emad (Mr /M )  
Journalist / *Journaliste*  
BORISLI, Salah (Mr /M )  
Videoman  
AL-SEBAIE, Mislit (Mr /M )  
Photograph / *Photographe*  
AL-ABDULJADIR, Naser (Mr /M )

### LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE POPULAIRE LAO

PHOMVIHANE, Xaysomphone (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation,  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*  
SAVENGSUKSA, Viseth (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

BODHISANE, Nithana( (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

CHITMANONH, Amphay (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la  
Commission des affaires étrangères*

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  
(LPRP)<sup>47</sup>*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

### LATVIA - LETTONIE

UDRE, Ingrida (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

DENISOVS, Olegs (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

PAURA, Sandra (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

RUSKA, Ugis (Mr /M )  
Security Officer to the Speaker  
*Responsable de la sécurité de la Présidente*

Speaker of the Saeima  
*Présidente du Saeima (ZZS)*

Member of the Saeima  
*Membre du Saeima (SP)<sup>48</sup>*

Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Bureau  
*Chef du Département des relations  
interparlementaires*

### LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA - JAMAHIRIYA ARABE LIBYENNE

AL-SHAHOUMI, Suleiman (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

ALI, Ebrik (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the General People's Congress,  
Secretary, Foreign Affairs  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple,  
Secrétaire aux affaires étrangères*

Member of the General People's Congress  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

<sup>47</sup> (LPRP: Lao People's Revolutionary Party

<sup>48</sup> (ZZS: Union of Greens and Farmers

(SP: Latvia Socialist Party

/ Parti populaire révolutionnaire lao)

/ Union des Verts et des agriculteurs)

/ Parti socialiste letton)

AL HADI, Hadeiba (Mr /M )  
Member of the Executive Committee  
*Membre du Comité exécutif*

Member of the General People's Congress  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

ELFIRJANI, Muftah (Mr /M )

Member of the General People's Congress  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

ALQADDAFFI, Nasrallah (Mr /M )

Member of the General People's Congress  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

ALI, Faiza (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the General People's Congress  
*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

ELHAJ, Sumaia (Mrs /Mme)

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*Membre du Congrès général du Peuple*

SAOUD, Abubaker (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

ISSA, Khalifa (Mr /M )  
Interpreter / *Interprète*

### MALAYSIA – MALAISIE

KAYVEAS, M (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Minister of the Prime Minister's Department  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Ministre adjoint pour les affaires relevant du Premier Ministre (PPP)*

WEE KA SIONG (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BN)*

CHEW MEI FUN (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BN)*

LIM BEE KAU (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BN)*

TAN AH ENG (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (BN)*

TERESA KOK SUH SIM (Ms /Mme)

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DAP)<sup>49</sup>*

LAVINIA, V (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary of the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

### MALI

KEITA, Bilal (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Fourth Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Quatrième Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale (RPM)*

DIALLO, Mohamed Baye (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Parliament, Parliamentary Secretary  
*Membre du Parlement, Secrétaire parlementaire (BDIA)<sup>50</sup>*

<sup>49</sup> (PPP: People's Progressive Party  
(BN: National Front  
(DAP: Democratic Action Party

<sup>50</sup> (RPM: Rally for Mali  
(BDIA: Democratic Bloc for African Integration

/ Parti progressiste du peuple)

/ Front national)

/ Parti d'action démocratique)

/ Rassemblement du peuple malien)

/ Bloc démocratique pour l'intégration africaine)

SANTARA, Mamadou (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group, Member of the ASGP  
*Secrétaire du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

**MALTA - MALTE**

GONZI, Michael (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the  
delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NP)*

MIZZI, Joseph (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MLP)<sup>51</sup>*

**MAURITANIA - MAURITANIE**

DIAH, Habib Brahim (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

**MEXICO - MEXIQUE**

MARGAIN BERLANGA, Fernando (Mr /M )  
Substitute Member of the Committee on Human  
Rights of Parliamentarians, Member of the  
Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre suppléant du Comité des droits de l'homme  
des parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*

Senator, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Sénateur, Président de la Commission des affaires  
étrangères (PAN)*

JAUREGUI, Cesar (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur (PAN)*

MADERO GARCIA, Lydia (Ms /Mme)  
Vice-President of the Coordinating Committee of  
Women Parliamentarians  
*Vice-Présidente du Comité de coordination des  
Femmes parlementaires*

Senator / *Sénatrice (PAN)*

SAURI RIANCHO, Dulce María (Mrs /Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice (PRI)*

TRUJILLO, Georgina (Mrs /Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice (PRI)*

CARDENAS, Raymundo (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur (PRD)*

CASTELLANOS CORTÉS, Sara (Mrs /Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice (PVEM)*

JIMENEZ, Carlos (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)*

CERVANTES, Humberto (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRI)*

DURAN, Patricia (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)*

BERMUDEZ, José (Mr /M )

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PAN)*

RAMIREZ, Alfonso (Mr /M )

Adviser / *Conseiller*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (PRD)<sup>52</sup>*

PINEDA, Antonio (Mr /M )

Coordination of International Affairs  
*Coordination des affaires internationales*

<sup>51</sup> (NP: Nationalist Party

(MLP: Malta Labour Party

<sup>52</sup> (PAN: National Action Party

(PRI: Institutional Revolutionary Party

(PRD: Democratic Revolution Party

(PVEM: Green Party of Mexico

/ Parti nationaliste)

/ Parti maltais du travail)

/ Parti de l'Action nationale)

/ Parti révolutionnaire institutionnel)

/ Parti de la révolution démocratique)

/ Parti vert écologiste du Mexique)

ALVAREZ, Jorge (Mr /M )

Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Commission des affaires étrangères*PAZ, Erendira Campo (Mrs /Mme)  
Ambassador / *Ambassadeur*SALCIDO, Jorge Zugaski (Mr /M )  
Embassy / *Ambassade*GEORGE, Miguel Angel Cruz (Mr /M )  
Embassy / *Ambassade***MONACO**CELLARIO, Claude (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*Member of the National Council  
*Conseiller national (UNAM)*DITLOT, Michèle (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Council, Chairperson of the  
Committee on Culture  
*Conseillère nationale, Présidente de la Commission  
de la culture (UNAM)*NOTARI, Fabrice (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the National Council  
*Conseiller national (UP)*<sup>53</sup>MEDECIN, Anne (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Administrator / *Administratrice***MONGOLIA - MONGOLIE**SAIRAAN, Kader (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*Member of the State Great Hural  
*Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MDP)*ENKHBOLD, Nyamaa (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the State Great Hural  
*Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPRP)*TUYA, Danzandarjaa (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*Member of the State Great Hural  
*Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MPRP)*

GUNDALAI, Lamjav (Mr /M )

Member of the State Great Hural  
*Membre du Grand Khoural de l'Etat (MDP)*<sup>54</sup>LUVSANJAV, Namsrajjav (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*Secretary General of the State Great Hural  
*Secrétaire général du Grand Khoural de l'Etat*CHOIDORJ, Markhaaj (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*Head of Foreign Relations Department of the State  
Great Hural  
*Chef du Département des relations étrangères du  
Grand Khoural de l'Etat*BOLD-ERDENE, Yadamsuren (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*Officer of the Foreign Relations Office of the State  
Great Hural  
*Chargé du Bureau des affaires étrangères du Grand  
Khoural de l'Etat*

<sup>53</sup> (UNAM: National Union for the Future of Monaco  
(UP: Union for the Principality  
<sup>54</sup> (MDP: Mongolian Democratic Party  
(MPRP: Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party

/ Union nationale pour l'avenir de Monaco)  
/ Union pour la Principauté)  
/ Parti démocratique de Mongolie)  
/ Parti révolutionnaire de Mongolie)

**MOROCCO – MAROC**

EL KADIRI, Ahmed (Mr /M )  
Member of the Standing Committee on Democracy  
and Human Rights, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre de la Commission permanente de la  
démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Membre du  
Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

ABBOU, Mohamed (Mr /M )

AOUJIL, Omar (Mr /M )

BENMASSAOUD, Rachida (Ms /Mme)

HALILI, Abdelaziz (Mr /M )

LAZREK, Noureddine (Mr /M )

BENNA Ahmed (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

BOUAYAD, Zoubida (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

LARAQUI, Younes (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

LOUKILI, Sidi Mohamed (Mr /M )  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administratif du Groupe*

FALAQ, Nafia (Mrs /Mme)  
Assistant Secretary / *Secrétaire adjointe*

Deputy Speaker of the House of Councillors  
*Vice-Président de la Chambre des Conseillers (PI)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (RNI)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (MP)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (USFP)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (PI)*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (UC)*

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers (USFP)<sup>55</sup>*

Member of the House of Councillors  
*Membre de la Chambre des Conseillers*

Head, External Relations  
*Chef du Service des relations extérieures*

**MOZAMBIQUE**

KATUPHA, José Mateus (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

BENESSE, Angela (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

NAMBURETE, António E (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

MANUEL, Carlos (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République  
(FRELIMO)*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République  
(FRELIMO)*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République  
(RENAMO-EU)<sup>56</sup>*

Secretary General of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée de la République*

<sup>55</sup> (PI : Istiqlal / Parti de l'Istiqlal)  
(RNI : National Rally of Independents / Rassemblement national des Indépendants)  
(MP: Popular Movement / Mouvement populaire)  
(USFP: Socialist Union of Popular Forces / Union socialiste de forces populaires)  
(UC: Constitutional Union / Union constitutionnelle)

<sup>56</sup> (FRELIMO: Mozambican Liberation Front / Front de libération du Mozambique)  
(RENAMO-EU: Mozambican National Resistance Movement - Electoral Union / Résistance nationale du Mozambique - Union électorale)

MUPENGUE, Paulo Naftal (Mr /M )  
Principal Assistant and Secretary of the Group  
*Assistant principal et Secrétaire du Groupe*

Economic Assistant of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Assistant économique de l'Assemblée de la République*

### NAMIBIA - NAMIBIE

MENSAH-WILLIAMS, Margareth (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Executive Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Comité exécutif, Vice-Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Chef de la délégation*

Vice-Chairperson of the National Council  
*Vice-Présidente du Conseil national (SWAPO)*<sup>57</sup>

SHIMUTWIKENI, Panduleni (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Council  
*Secrétaire générale du Conseil national*

DE WEE, Elizebeth (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Senior Parliamentary Clerk, National Assembly  
*Administratrice parlementaire principale, Assemblée nationale*

DANIELS, Jacqueline (Mrs /Mme)  
Co-Secretary of the Group  
*Co-Secrétaire du Groupe*

Special Assistant to the Chairman of the National Council  
*Assistante du Président du Conseil national*

### NEPAL

RANABHAT, Taranath (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the House of Representatives  
*Président de la Chambre des Représentants*

GURUNG, Dipak Bahadur (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

CHAUDHARI, Deo Narayan (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

DAHAL, Bishweswara (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

BHATTARAI, Radheshyam (Mr /M )

Secretary to the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale*

SHAH, Baidyanath (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Chief Accounts Comptroller, Parliament Secretariat  
*Chef du Service du contrôle des comptes, Secrétariat du Parlement*

### NETHERLANDS – PAYS-BAS

DEES, Dirk (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the First Chamber of the States General  
*Membre de la Première Chambre des Etats-généraux (VVD)*

TAN, Ing You (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the First Chamber of the States General  
*Membre de la Première Chambre des Etats-généraux (PvdA)*

VAN HEUKELUM, Jan (Mr /M )

Member of the First Chamber of the States General  
*Membre de la Première Chambre des Etats-généraux (VVD)*

<sup>57</sup> (SWAPO: South West Africa People's Organisation / Organisation du peuple du Sud-Ouest africain)

KALSBECK, Ella (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Second Chamber of the States  
General  
*Membre de la Deuxième Chambre des Etats-  
généraux (PvdA)*

GELUK, Jan (Mr /M )

Member of the Second Chamber of the States  
General  
*Membre de la Deuxième Chambre des Etats-  
généraux (VVD)*<sup>58</sup>

BELLEKOM, Leo (Mr /M )  
Secretary/Treasurer of the Group, Secretary to the  
delegation  
*Secrétaire/Trésorier du Groupe, Secrétaire de la  
délégation*

Clerk of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations  
*Greffier chargé des relations interparlementaires*

### NEW ZEALAND – NOUVELLE-ZELANDE

MACKEY, Janet (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (NZLP)*

TURNER, Judy (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (UF)*

LOCKE, Keith (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (GP)*<sup>59</sup>

HORREY, Kate (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

### NIGERIA

OPARA, Austin (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives  
*Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants  
(PDP)*<sup>60</sup>

NINGI, Abdul (Mr /M )

House Leader, House of Representatives  
*Chef de la majorité de la Chambre des Représentants*

CHUKWUMERIJE, Uche (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur*

GANDI, Yari Sule (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur*

ANISULOWO, Iyabo (Mrs /Mme)

Senator / *Sénatrice*

SODANGI, AD (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur*

OLASUNKANMI, Akinlabi (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

JIYA, Peter (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

KOJI GARBA, Binta (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

SHEHU, Baba (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale*

<sup>58</sup> (VVD: Liberal Party  
(PvdA: Labour Party  
<sup>59</sup> (NZLP: Labour Party  
(UF: United Future  
(GP: Green Party  
<sup>60</sup> (PDP: People's democratic Party

/ Parti libéral)  
/ Parti du travail)  
/ Parti travailliste)  
/ Futur uni)  
/ Les Verts)  
/ Parti démocratique populaire)

OSAKWE, Patrick (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Senator / *Sénateur*

SALIM, Ibrahim (Mr /M )  
Executive Member of the ASGP  
*Membre exécutif de l'ASGP*

Clerk to the National Assembly  
*Greffier à l'Assemblée nationale*

UMAR, Sani (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk, House of Representatives  
*Greffier, Chambre des Représentants*

AHMADU, Rahila (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

KAITA, M A (Mr /M )

Head, MFA Liaison Officer, National Assembly  
*Chef du Service de liaison au Ministère des affaires étrangères*

OGIEAGBEGAH, Yusuff (Mr /M )

Legislative Officer  
*Services législatifs*

### NORWAY - NORVEGE

ANDERSEN, Karin (Ms /Mme)  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council (8 April), Leader of the delegation  
*Présidente du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur (8 avril), Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Local Government  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente pour le Gouvernement local (SLP)*

STARRFELT, Oddbjørg Ausdal (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council (4 April)  
*Membre du Conseil directeur (4 avril)*

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communication  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente des transports et des communications (LP)*

VALLERSNES, Finn Martin (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, President of the Committee on Middle East Questions  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Président du Comité sur les questions relatives au Moyen-Orient*

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente des affaires étrangères (KP)*

NISTAD, Thore A (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communication  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente des transports et des communications (PP)*

LÅNKE, Ola (Mr /M )

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Family, Cultural Affairs and Government Administration  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente de la famille, des affaires culturelles et du gouvernement (CDP)*

SKEI GRANDE, Trine (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Storting, Member of the Standing Committee on Education, Research and Church Affairs  
*Membre du Storting, Membre de la Commission permanente pour l'éducation, la recherche et les affaires religieuses (LIB)<sup>61</sup>*

BRATTESTÅ, Hans (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Storting  
*Secrétaire général du Storting*

<sup>61</sup> (SLP: Socialist Left Party  
(LP: Labour Party  
(KP: Conservative Party  
(PP: Progress Party  
(CDP: Christian Democratic Party  
(LIB: Liberal Party

/ Parti socialiste de gauche)  
(Parti travailliste)  
(Parti conservateur)  
(Parti progressiste)  
(Parti démocrate chrétien)  
(Parti libéral)

TVEITEN, Margit F (Ms /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

HØGE, Anne Laila (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary of the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Head of Section, The International Secretariat  
*Chef de la Section du Secrétariat international*

Higher Executive Officer  
*Administratrice*

## PAKISTAN

SOOMRO, Muhammedmian (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

RANJHA, Khalid (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

SHUJA-UL-MULK (Mr /M )

TUFAIL, Sardar Muhammad (Mr /M )

MASTIKHAIL, Sanaulah Khan (Mr /M )

ATTA-UR-REHMAN, Maulana (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

WASSAN, Manzoor (Mr /M )

EHSAN, Onaiza (Mrs /Mme)

ASIF, Tahira (Mrs /Mme)

HUSSAIN, Maulana Rahat (Mr /M )

HAIDERY, Syed Hasnain (Mr /M )  
Principal Staff Officer to Chairman, Senate  
*Aide-de-camp du Président du Sénat*

YUSUF, Waqar (Mr /M )

RAFIQ, Muhammad (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

KHAN, Amir (Mr /M )

SHAFIQ KHAN, Tarik (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

IQBAL, Waseem (Mr /M )

MEHMOOD, Nasir (Mr /M )

Speaker of the Senate  
*Président du Sénat*

Member of the Senate, Leader of the Opposition  
*Membre du Sénat, Chef de l'opposition*

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PPP (Sherpao))*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (Q)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (Q)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (Q)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (PPP (Patriot))*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (Q)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée Nationale (Q)<sup>62</sup>*

Senator / *Sénateur*

Deputy Secretary, International Relations  
*Secrétaire adjoint, relations internationales*

Section Officer, Inter-Parliamentary Relations, Senate  
*Administrateur, Relations interparlementaires, Sénat*

Acting Secretary, National Assembly  
*Secrétaire par interim, Assemblée nationale*

Deputy Secretary, Inter-Parliamentary Relations,  
National Assembly  
*Secrétaire adjoint, Relations interparlementaires,  
Assemblée nationale*

Section Officer, National Assembly  
*Administrateur, Assemblée nationale*

Staff Officer, National Assembly  
*Administrateur, Assemblée nationale*

<sup>62</sup> (PPP (Sherpao): Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao)  
(Q: Pakistan Muslim League Qaid-i-Azam  
(PPP (Patriot): Pakistan People's Party (Patriot)

/ Parti du peuple pakistanais (Sherpao)  
/ Ligue musulmane pakistanaise Qaid-i-Azam  
/ Parti du peuple pakistanais (Patriote)

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA - PAPOUASIE-NOUVELLE-GUINEE**

DADAE, Bob (Mr /M ) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Président du Parlement</i>
KUMAN, Nick (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
PALA, Ano (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary-General of Parliament <i>Secrétaire général du Parlement</i>
POKWARI, Kale (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	

**PERU - PEROU**

DE LA MATA DE PUENTE, Judith (Mrs /Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Vice-President of the Congress of the Republic, Coordinator on matters pertaining to the condition of women <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente du Congrès de la République, Coordinatrice pour les questions relatives à la condition de la femme</i>
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**PHILIPPINES**

DEFENSOR SANTIAGO, Miriam (Mrs /Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator, Chairperson, Committee on Foreign Relations <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission des relations étrangères</i>
CUENCO, Antonio V (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de la Commission des relations étrangères</i>
PANGILINAN, Francis N (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
PIMENTEL, Aquilino Q Jr (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator, Minority Leader <i>Sénateur, Chef de la minorité</i>
ANGARA, Edgardo J (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
VILLAR, Manuel B (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
BIAZON, Rodolfo G (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
GORDON, Richard J (Mr /M )	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i>
CAYETANO, Pia S (Mrs /Mme)	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i>
VELOSO, Eduardo K (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MARTINEZ, Clavel A (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ROSALES, Loretta Ann P (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
AQUINO III, Benigno S (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
NOGRALES, Prospero C (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
YABES, Oscar G (Mr /M ) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary of the Senate <i>Secrétaire du Sénat</i>

LIRIO-REYES, Emma (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Executive Committee of the ASGP <i>Membre du Comité exécutif de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary of the Senate <i>Secrétaire adjointe du Sénat</i>
NAZARENO, Roberto P (Mr /M ) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ADASA, Artemio A (Mr /M ) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary General of the House of Representatives <i>Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ORTIZ, Romeo G (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
AZARCON, Josefina D (Mrs /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
BUENDIA, Efren Jr S (Mr /M ) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
AMATONG-BUENDIA, Rosario H (Mrs /Mme) Assistant delegation Secretary <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
PANLAQUE, Evelyn P (Mrs /Mme) Technical Adviser <i>Conseillère technique</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
DADA-ARNALDO, Arlene (Mrs /Mme) Technical Adviser / <i>Conseillère technique</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
UY, Denya Gracia J (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
ARTES, Romando S (Mr /M ) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
FELIPE, Marvee Anne C (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
REGINALDO, Maria Concepcion Cheryl E (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
SORIAGA, Wivina Lucia J (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	Senate of the Philippines <i>Sénat des Philippines</i>
FERNANDEZ, Natalia G (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>
FIGUEROA, Ma Arlene N (Mrs /Mme) Technical Staff / <i>Personnel technique</i>	House of Representatives <i>Chambre des Représentants</i>

**POLAND - POLOGNE**

CHALADAJ, Jan (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre du Sejm (I)</i>
PATURALSKA, Grazyna (Ms /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre du Sejm (I)</i>
KEDRA, Ryszard (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre du Sejm (LPR)</i>
RZYMELKA, Jan (Mr /M )	Member of the Sejm <i>Membre du Sejm (PO)</i>

JARZEMBOWSKI, Ryszard (Mr /M )

Deputy Speaker of the Senate  
*Vice-Président du Sénat* (SLD)

LEWICKI, Marian (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur* (UP)

STOKLOSA, Henryk (Mr /M )

Senator / *Sénateur* (I)<sup>63</sup>

WITALEC, Adam (Mr /M )

Secretary General of the Senate  
*Secrétaire général du Sénat*

Member of ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

STASKIEWICZ, Wiesław (Mr /M )

Head of Research Bureau of Chancellery of the Sejm  
*Chef du Bureau de Recherche de la Chancellerie du Sejm*

Substitute Member of the ASGP

*Membre suppléant de l'ASGP*

GRUBA, Wojciech (Mr /M )

Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

JANUSZEWSKI, Andrzej (Mr /M )

Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

## PORTUGAL

SILVA, Guilherme (Mr /M )

President of the Group, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation*

Deputy Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Vice-Président de l'Assemblée de la République* (PSD)

GOMES, Fernando (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République* (PS)

NETO, Jorge (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République* (PSD)

ALBERNAZ, Rosa Maria (Ms /Mme)

Focal Point for Questions Relating to the Status of Women, Member of the Governing Council  
*Personne relais sur les questions relatives à la condition de la femme, Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République* (PS)

PACHECO, Duarte (Mr /M )

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République* (PSD)

MOREIRA, Melchior (Mr /M )

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République* (PSD)<sup>64</sup>

CORTE-REAL, Isabel (Ms /Mme)

Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Secrétaire générale de l'Assemblée de la République*

PINTO FERREIRA, Rita (Mrs /Mme)

Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Desk Officer, International Relations  
*Attachée, Relations internationales*

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA – REPUBLIQUE DE COREE

YOO, Jay-Kun (Mr /M )

Member of the Governing Council, Vice President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the National Defense Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président du Comité de défense nationale* (UP)

<sup>63</sup> (I: Independents  
(LPR: League of Polish Families  
(PO: Civic Platform  
(SLD: Left Democratic Alliance  
(UP: Labour Union  
<sup>64</sup> (PSD: Social Democratic Party  
(PS: Socialist Party

/ Indépendants)  
(Ligue des familles)  
(Plateforme civique)  
(Alliance de la gauche démocratique)  
(Union travailliste)  
(Parti social démocratique)  
(Parti socialiste)

CHUNG, Ui Wha (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (GNP)
SHIN, Kook Hwan (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (I)
CHUNG, Eui Yong (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UP)
SUH, Hae Suk (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UP)
BAHK, Jae Wan (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (GNP)
OOH, Che Chang (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (UP)
LEE, Hyehoon (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i> (GNP) <sup>65</sup>
JUN, Ha Sung (Mr /M ) Member of ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Deputy Secretary-General for Administrative Affairs of the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint aux affaires administratives de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Il Kwon (Mr /M )	Director of the Interparliamentary Organisation Division of the National Assembly <i>Directeur de la Division de l'organisation interparlementaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
CHOI, Sun Young (Mrs /Mme)	Deputy Director of the Interparliamentary Organisation Division of the National Assembly <i>Directrice adjointe de la Division de l'organisation interparlementaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LIM, Chae Jin (Mr /M )	Interparliamentary Organisation Division of the National Assembly <i>Division de l'organisation interparlementaire de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KIM, Jeong Yeon (Mrs /Mme)	Protocol Officer of the National Assembly <i>Responsable du protocole à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
JIN, Pil Keun (Mr /M )	Deputy Director of the Accounting Division of the National Assembly <i>Directeur adjoint de la division de la comptabilité de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LEE, Seung Woo (Mr /M ) Press / <i>Presse</i>	

**ROMANIA – ROUMANIE**

PODGOREAN, Radu (Mr /M ) Vice-President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (SDP)
STANCIU, Anghel (Mr /M ) Vice-President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council <i>Vice-Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i> (GRP)

<sup>65</sup> (UP: Uri Party)  
(GNP: Grand National Party)  
(I: Independents)

/ Parti Uri)  
/ Grand Parti national)  
/ Indépendants)

IVĂNESCU, Paula Maria (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Executive Bureau of the Group, Member of the Governing Council <i>Secrétairu du Bureau exécutif du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (DP)</i>
MĂNĂSTIREANU, Vladimir Alexandru (Mr /M ) Member of the Steering Committee of the Group <i>Membre du Comité directeur du Groupe</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)</i>
MIHALACHE, Dan Sorin (Mr /M ) Member of the Steering Committee of the Group <i>Membre du Comité directeur du Groupe</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (SDP)</i>
ȘERBU, Gheorghe Vergil (Mr /M ) Member of the Steering Committee of the Group <i>Membre du Comité directeur du Groupe</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (NLP)</i>
PALĂR, Ionel (Mr /M ) Member of the Steering Committee of the Group <i>Membre du Comité directeur du Groupe</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés (NLP)</i>
SOGOR, Csaba (Mr /M ) Member of the Steering Committee of the Group <i>Membre du Comité directeur du Groupe</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat (HDUR)<sup>66</sup></i>
GVOZDENOVICI, Slavomir (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
CIUCĂ, Liviu (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Membre de la Chambre des Députés</i>
PADUROIU, Cecilia (Mrs /Mme) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Acting Deputy Secretary-General, Chamber of Deputies <i>Secrétairu générale adjointe par interim, Chambre des Députés</i>
PETRA, Petru (Mr /M )	Director, General Division for Foreign Relations and Protocol, Chamber of Deputies <i>Directeur, Division générale des relations étrangères et du protocole</i>
PETRICU, George (Mr /M )	Director, Division Secretariat General, Senate <i>Directeur, Division du Secrétariat général, Sénat</i>
DUMITRESCU, Cristina (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétairu du Groupe</i>	Head, Division for International Parliamentary Organisations, Senate <i>Chef, Division des organisations parlementaires internationales, Sénat</i>
BADEA, Adriana (Mrs /Mme) Secretary to the delegation (ASGP) <i>Secrétairu de la délégation (ASGP)</i>	Counsellor, Department for Foreign Parliamentary Relations, Senate <i>Conseillère, Département des relations parlementaires internationales, Sénat</i>
SAVA, Christina (Mrs /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétairu de la délégation</i>	Adviser, General Division for Foreign Relations and Protocol, Chamber of Deputies <i>Conseillère, Division générale des relations étrangères et du protocole, Chambre des Députés</i>

<sup>66</sup> (SDP: Social Democratic Party  
(GRP: Greater Romania Party  
(DP: Democratic Party  
(NLP: National Liberal Party  
(HDUR: Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania

/ Parti social démocrate)  
( / Parti de la grande Roumanie)  
( / Parti démocrate)  
( / Parti libéral national)  
( / Union démocratique des Magyars de Roumanie)

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION – FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

BABURIN, Sergey (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the State Duma <i>Vice-Président de la Douma d'Etat</i> (MF)
KOZLOVSKIY, Alexander (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the State Duma, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires internationales</i> (URP)
KULIKOV, Anatoliy (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the State Duma, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i> (URP)
FOMENKO, Alexander (Mr /M )	Member of the State Duma, Committee on Culture <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Membre du Comité pour la culture</i> (MF)
SAPOZHNIKOV, Nicolai (Mr /M )	Member of the State Duma, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Credit Organisation and Financial Markets <i>Membre de la Douma d'Etat, Vice-Président du Comité de l'organisation du crédit et des marchés financiers</i> (KPRF) <sup>67</sup>
PETRENKO, Valentina (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZHAMBALNIMBUEV, Bato-Zhargal (Mr /M ) Member of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Membre de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
CHERNYKH, Victor (Mr /M )	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ISKUZHIN, Rudik (Mr /M )	Member of the Council of the Federation <i>Membre du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TKACHENKO, Petr (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of the Council of the Federation <i>Secrétaire général du Conseil de la Fédération</i>
KOLOTVIN, Viacheslav (Mr /M ) Secretary / <i>Secrétaire</i>	Deputy Chief of International Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint du Département international, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
ZHELNOV, Vasily (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Chief of International Department, Council of the Federation <i>Chef adjoint du département international, Conseil de la Fédération</i>
TUNIOVA, Anna (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
RAZVIN, Peter (Mr /M ) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	
VYDRINE, Serguei (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Director of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Department of the State Duma <i>Directeur du Département des relations interparlementaires de la Douma d'Etat</i>
BUROVTSEV, Mikhail (Mr /M ) Consultant	

<sup>67</sup> (MF: Motherland Faction  
(URP: United Russia Party  
(KPRF: Communist Party

/ Bloc de la mère patrie)  
(Russie unifiée)  
(Parti communiste)

LEBEDENKO, Vladimir (Mr /M ) Consultant	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
USPENSKIY, Anton (Mr /M ) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
KLEMYONOV, Andrey (Mr /M ) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Ministère des affaires étrangères</i>
BASKAKOV, Mikhail (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
ANTONOV, Anatoli (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	

**RWANDA**

MUKEZAMFURA, Alfred (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies <i>Président de la Chambre des Députés (PDC)</i>
KAYUMBA, Immaculée (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator, Chairperson of the Committee of Politics and Good Governance <i>Sénatrice, Présidente de la Commission politique et de la bonne gouvernance (FPR)<sup>68</sup></i>
RWABUTOGO, Côme (Mr /M ) Security / <i>Sécurité</i>	

**SAMOA**

TOLOFUA, Falemoe (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Vice-President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Vice-Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée législative (HRPP)</i>
LEAO, Talalelei (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Legislative Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée législative (SNDP)<sup>69</sup></i>
ALAMA, Fetuaotoia (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Clerk of Parliament <i>Greffière au Parlement</i>

**SAN MARINO – SAINT-MARIN**

TERENZI, Gian Franco (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PDCS)</i>
VENTURINI, Mario (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (APDS)</i>
MICHELOTTI, Maria Domenica (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Great General Council <i>Membre du Grand Conseil général (PD)</i>

<sup>68</sup> (PDC: Centrist Democratic Party  
(FPR: Rwandan Patriotic Front

<sup>69</sup> (HRPP: Human Rights Protection Party  
(SNDP: Samoan National Development Party

/ Parti démocratique du centre)  
/ Front patriotique rwandais)  
/ Parti de la défense des droits de l'homme)  
/ Parti samoan pour le développement national)

SANSOVINI, Glauco (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Great General Council  
*Membre du Grand Conseil général (ANS)* <sup>70</sup>

### SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE - SAO TOME-ET-PRINCIPE

DIAS, Dionisio (Mr /M )  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP/PSD)*

NEVES, Delfim Santiago (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MDFM/PCD)*

MONTEIRO, Filomena (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (MLSTP/PSD)* <sup>71</sup>

Da SILVA, Francisco (Mr /M )  
Secretary General of the Group, Member of the ASGP  
*Secrétaire général du Groupe, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de l'Assemblée nationale*

PIRES NETO, Daniel (Mr /M )  
Security of the Speaker  
*Sécurité du Président*

### SAUDI ARABIA - ARABIE SAOUDITE

AL-HULWAH, Mohammed (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

KAMAL, Abdulqadir (Mr /M )

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

AL-ALAWI, Hussein (Mr /M )

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

AL-TURKI, Ahmad (Mr /M )

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

AL-AGEELY, Gady (Mr /M )

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

AL-TAMEEM, Mohsin (Mr /M )

Member of the Shura Council  
*Membre du Conseil de la Choura*

AL-MOAMMAR, Abdulhakeem (Mr /M )  
Adviser / *Conseiller*

Director General, Inter-Parliamentary Relations  
*Directeur général des relations interparlementaires*

ALZAHIM, Ibraheem (Mr /M )

Head of Public Relations Department  
*Chef du Service des relations publiques*

ALBRAHIM, Mohammed (Mr /M )

Protocol Officer / *Chargé du protocole*

ALSAEED, Mohammed (Mr /M )

Inter-Parliamentary Relations Officer  
*Chargé des relations interparlementaires*

<sup>70</sup> (PDCS: Christian-Democratic Party  
(APDS: Popular Democratic Alliance  
(PD: Democrats Party  
(ANS: National Alliance

/ Parti démocrate-chrétien)  
/ Alliance populaire démocratique)  
/ Parti des démocrates)  
/ Alliance nationale)

<sup>71</sup> (MLSTP: Sao Tome and Principe Liberation Movement  
(PSD: Social Democratic Party  
(MDFM: Force for Change Democratic Movement  
(PCD: Democratic Convergence Party

/ Mouvement de libération de Sao Tome-et-Principe)  
/ Parti social démocratique)  
/ Mouvement démocratique Force pour le changement)  
/ Parti démocratique de convergence)

**SENEGAL**

DIACK-SAMB, Mame Bousso (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Coordinator of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Coordinatrice du collectif des femmes parlementaires</i>
BOUCHER CAMARA, Marie-José (Mrs /Mme) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Secretary General <i>Secrétaire générale adjointe</i>

**SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO – SERBIE-ET-MONTENEGRO**

DRLJEVIĆ, Milorad (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Vice-President of the Parliament <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (DPS)</i> <sup>72</sup>
ŠIBALIĆ, Vladimir (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Chief, Cabinet of the Vice-President <i>Chef de cabinet du Vice-Président</i>
STANIŠIĆ, Sanja (Mrs /Mme) Interpreter / <i>Interprète</i>	

**SINGAPORE - SINGAPOUR**

HENG CHING, Chew (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Président du Parlement (PAP)</i>
KAI YUEN, Wang (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i>
LOW, Penny (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (PAP)</i> <sup>73</sup>
PENG HAN, Siow (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Clerk of Parliament <i>Greffier au Parlement</i>
RAM, P O (Mr /M )	Clerk of Parliament <i>Greffier au Parlement</i>

**SLOVAKIA - SLOVAQUIE**

DEMETEROVÁ, Mária (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (KDH)</i>
HORT, Milan (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Council, Chairman of Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national, Président de Commission (SDKU)</i>
FARKAS, Pál (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Council, Chairman of Committee <i>Membre du Conseil national, Président de Commission (SMK-MKP)</i> <sup>74</sup>

<sup>72</sup> (DPS: Democrat Party of Socialists (Montenegro) / Parti démocrate socialiste (Montenegro))  
<sup>73</sup> (PAP: People's Action Party / Parti d'action populaire)  
<sup>74</sup> (KDH: Christian Democratic Movement / Mouvement chrétien démocrate)  
 (SDKU: Slovak Democratic Coalition and Christian Union / Coalition démocratique slovaque et Union chrétienne)  
 (SMK-MKP: Hungarian Coalition Party / Coalition hongroise)

NOVÁKOVÁ, Jarmila (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire du Groupe*

**SLOVENIA - SLOVENIE**

JEROVŠEK, Jožef (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of  
Foreign Affairs Committee  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la  
Commission des affaires étrangères (SDS)*

DOBRAJC, Polona (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (SDS)*

ŽNIDARŠIČ, Franc (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DeSUS)*

CVIKL, Milan (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of  
Committee for Budgetary and Other Public Finance  
Control  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la  
Commission du contrôle budgétaire et des autres  
finances publiques (LDS)*

HORVAT, Feri (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the  
Committee on Economy  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la  
Commission de l'économie (ZLSD)<sup>75</sup>*

PANDEV, Tanja (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group / *Secrétaire du Groupe*

Head of International Relations Department  
*Chef du Département des relations internationales*

**SOUTH AFRICA - AFRIQUE DU SUD**

MBETE, Baleka (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council,  
Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Présidente de l'Assemblée nationale*

BAPELA, Kopeng Obed (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)*

MAHLAWE, Nomhle Maria (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)*

MAGABADELI, Hlengiwe Christophina (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)*

THEMBA, Malesane Priscilla (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Council of Provinces  
*Membre du Conseil national des Provinces (ANC)*

COETZEE, Ryan (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (DA)*

VAN DER MERWE, Jacobus Hercules (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (IFP)*

DE LILLE, Patricia (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ID)*

HAHNDIEK, Kasper (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary to National Assembly  
*Secrétaire de l'Assemblée nationale*

<sup>75</sup> (SDS: Slovenian Democratic Party / Parti démocrate slovène)  
(DeSUS: Democratic Party of Pensioners of Slovenia / Parti démocratique des retraités de Slovénie)  
(LDS: Liberal Democracy of Slovenia / Parti démocrate libéral)  
(ZLSD: Associated List of Social Democrats / Union sociale-démocrate)

MAMABOLO, Albert (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Parliamentary Officer  
*Assistant, Service des séances*

BARNARD, Aleda (Mrs /Mme)  
Personal Assistant to the Speaker  
*Assistante personnelle du Président*

NJIKELANA, Sisa James (Mr /M )  
Adviser (Rapporteur)  
*Conseiller (Rapporteur)*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (ANC)<sup>76</sup>*

PAULSE, Cheryl-Anne (Mrs /Mme)  
Deputy Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation*

Parliamentary Officer  
*Responsable parlementaire*

### SPAIN - ESPAGNE

CUNILLERA MESTRES, Teresa (Mrs /Mme)  
Leader of the delegation  
*Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)*

SANZ BLANCO, Clemente (Mr /M )

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PP)*

MOSCOSO DEL PRADO, Juan (Mr /M )

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre du Congrès des Députés (PSOE)*

BONET i REVES, Carlos (Mr /M )

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (ERC)*

MARTINEZ GARCIA, Maria Antonia (Mrs /Mme)

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PSOE)*

JANÉ GUASCH, Jordi (Mr /M )

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre du Congrès des Députés (CiU)*

ANASAGASTI OLABEAGA, Iñaki (Mr /M )

Member of the Senate  
*Membre du Sénat (PNV)*

MORAGAS SANCHEZ, Jorge (Mr /M )

Member of the Congress of Deputies  
*Membre du Congrès des Députés (PP)<sup>77</sup>*

ALBA NAVARRO, Manuel (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Congress of Deputies  
*Secrétaire général du Congrès des Députés*

BOYRA AMPOSTA, Helena (Mrs /Mme)  
Adviser / *Conseillère*

JUAREZ HIDALGO, M Rosa (Mrs /Mme)  
Administrative Secretary of the Group  
*Secrétaire administrative du Groupe*

### SRI LANKA

LOKUBANDARA, W J M (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing  
Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur,  
Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of Parliament  
*Président du Parlement (UNP)*

<sup>76</sup> (ANC: African National Congress  
(DA: Democratic Alliance  
(IFP: Inkhata Freedom Party  
(ID: Independent Democrats  
<sup>77</sup> (PSOE: Spanish Socialist Workers' Party  
(PP: People's Party  
(ERC: Republican Left of Catalonia  
(CiU: Convergence and Union  
(PNV: Basque Nationalist Party

/ Congrès national africain)  
(Alliance démocratique)  
(Parti Inkhata pour la liberté)  
(Démocrates indépendants)  
(Parti socialiste ouvrier espagnol)  
(Parti populaire)  
(Gauche républicaine de Catalogne)  
(Convergence et Union)  
(Parti nationaliste basque)

JAYAWARDANA, Jayalath (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UNP)</i>
SITHAMPARANATHAN, Padmini (Mrs /Mme)	Member of Parliament, <i>Membre du Parlement (ITAK)</i>
KARALLIYADDA, Tissa (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament, <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i>
HERATH, Vijitha (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement (UPFA)</i> <sup>78</sup>
WIJESEKERA, Priyane (Mrs /Mme) Secretary and Treasurer, Member of the ASGP <i>Secrétaire et trésorière, Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General of Parliament <i>Secrétaire générale du Parlement</i>
KITULGODA, Dhammika (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
HEMACHANDRA ASOKA, E H (Mr /M ) Security / <i>Securité</i>	

**SUDAN - SOUDAN**

IBRAHIM EL-TAHIR, Ahmed (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>
EL-TIGANI, Mustafa (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères</i>
EL-FADNI, Abdel Rahman (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of the Peace Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Président de la Commission de la paix</i>
OSMAN GAKNOUN, Marwa (Ms /Mme) Substitute Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre suppléant du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Community Development Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Présidente de la Commission du développement communautaire</i>
IBRAHIM, Mohamed Ibrahim (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>
FATH EL RAHMAN, Ali Mohamed (Mr /M )	Executive Director, Speaker's Office <i>Directeur exécutif, Bureau du Président</i>
EL-SIDDIG, Ali Osman (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Assistant Administrative Secretary <i>Secrétaire administratif adjoint</i>

**SWEDEN - SUEDE**

HÖIJ, Helena (Mrs /Mme) Leader of the delegation <i>Chef de la délégation</i>	Third Deputy Speaker of the Riksdag <i>Troisième Vice-Présidente du Riksdag (kd)</i>
EKHOLM, Berndt (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i>

<sup>78</sup> (UNP: United National Party  
(ITAK: Lanka Tamil State Party  
(UPFA: United People's Freedom Alliance

/ Parti national uni)  
(Parti de l'Etat tamoul du Lanka)  
(Alliance de la liberté populaire unifiée)

JÄRREL, Henrik S (Mr /M ) Substitute Member of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Vice-President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre suppléant de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Vice- Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (m)</i>
LUNDBERG, Inger (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i>
NORDQUIST, Kaj (Mr /M )	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (s)</i>
BAGER, Erling (Mr /M )	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (fp)</i>
GUSTAFSSON, Holger (Mr /M )	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (kd)</i>
HEDSTRÖM, Lotta (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Riksdag <i>Membre du Riksdag (mp)</i> <sup>79</sup>
FORSBERG, Anders (Mr /M ) Deputy Chairman of the ASGP <i>Vice-Président de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary General <i>Secrétaire général</i>
RYDELL, Charlotte (Mrs /Mme)	Deputy Clerk / <i>Greffière adjointe</i>
STARELL, Lars (Mr /M ) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Head of Division, International Department <i>Chef de Section, Département des affaires internationales</i>
BROLIN, Eva (Ms /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	International Secretary, International Department <i>Secrétaire aux affaires internationales, Département des affaires internationales</i>
JOHNSON, Anna Lena (Mrs /Mme) Personal assistant to Mr Kaj Nordquist <i>Assistante personnelle de M Kaj Nordquist</i>	

**SWITZERLAND - SUISSE**

BIERI, Peter (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the Council of States <i>Deuxième Vice-Président du Conseil des Etats (PDC)</i>
GADIANT, Brigitta M (Mrs /Mme) Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Member of the Governing Council <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (UDC)</i>
BÜRGI, Hermann (Mr /M )	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (UDC)</i>
GÜNTER, Paul (Mr /M )	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (PS)</i>

<sup>79</sup> (kd: Christian Democratic Party  
(s: Social Democratic Party  
(m: Moderate Party (Conservatives)  
(fp: Liberal Party  
(mp: Green Party

/ Parti chrétien-démocrate)  
(s: Parti social-démocrate)  
(m: Parti des modérés (Conservateurs))  
(fp: Parti libéral)  
(mp: Verts)

GUTZWILLER, Felix (Mr /M )	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (PRD)</i>
SCHIESSER, Fritz (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Council of States <i>Membre du Conseil des Etats (PRD)</i>
STUMP, Doris (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (PS)</i>
WALKER, Félix (Mr /M )	Member of the National Council <i>Membre du Conseil national (PDC)</i> <sup>80</sup>
LANZ, Christoph (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Secretary, Council of States <i>Secrétaire du Conseil des Etats</i>
ZEHNDER, Daniel (Mr /M ) Secretary of the Group / <i>Secrétaire du Groupe</i>	Deputy Head, International Relations Division <i>Chef adjoint de la Division des relations internationales</i>
PIOTET, Laure (Mrs /Mme) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire adjointe</i>	

### SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC – REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE

NOUMEIR, Ghanem (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Président de la Commission des affaires arabes et étrangères</i>
MOUSSALLI, Abdulah (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the People's Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple, Vice-Président de la Commission des affaires arabes et étrangères</i>
AL WAHAB, Mahmoud (Mr /M )	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
GHZAYEL, Ahmad (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the People's Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée du Peuple</i>
EL-DEBSS, Issam (Mr /M ) Consul General of the Syrian Arab Republic <i>Consul général de la République arabe syrienne</i>	

### THAILAND - THAÏLANDE

BHALAKULA, Bhokin (Mr /M ) President of the Group, Leader of the delegation <i>Président du Groupe, Chef de la délégation</i>	Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of the National Assembly <i>Président de la Chambre des Représentants, Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LERKSAMRAN, Lalita (Mrs /Mme) Substitute Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre suppléant du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Second Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Deuxième Vice-Présidente de la Chambre des Représentants (TRT)</i>
SAPPAYASIT, Ardhasit (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (TRT)</i>
SILPA-ARCHA, Kanjana (Ms /Mme)	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (CP)</i>

<sup>80</sup> (PDC: Christian Democratic Party  
(UDC: Democratic Union of the Centre  
(PS: Social Democratic Party  
(PRD: Radical Democratic Party

/ Parti démocrate chrétien)  
(Union démocratique du centre)  
(Parti socialiste)  
(Parti radical-démocratique)

PONLABOOT, Alongkorn (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants (DP)</i> <sup>81</sup>
AGSONSUA, Pha (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
YOOPRASERT, Jitra (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
SOOKMARK, Khunying Jintana (Mrs /Mme) Vice-President, Standing Committee on Peace and International Security <i>Vice-Présidente de la Commission permanente de la paix et de la sécurité internationale</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
UNGPAKORN, Jon (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	Member of the Senate <i>Membre du Sénat</i>
BHALAKULA, Suppakorn (Mr /M )	Private Assistant to the President of the National Assembly <i>Assistant particulier du Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
KHAMASUNDARA, Supasinee (Ms /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Director of the Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Directrice de la Division des organisations interparlementaires, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
TUISUWAN, Khanapol (Mr /M )	Director of the Division of the President of the National Assembly, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Directeur de la Division du Président de l'Assemblée nationale, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
MASRICHAN, Krisanee (Ms /Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Director of IPU Group, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Directrice du Groupe UIP, Division des organisations interparlementaires, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
TAIPIBOONSUK, Steejit (Ms /Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Foreign Relations Officer, IPU Group, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Responsable des relations étrangères, Groupe UIP, Division des organisations interparlementaires, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
JINTAWIROJ, Napassorn (Ms /Mme) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation</i>	Foreign Relations Officer, IPU Group, Bureau of Inter-Parliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Responsable des relations étrangères, Groupe UIP, Division des organisations interparlementaires, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
KOTTHEN, Panya (Mr /M ) Assistant Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation</i>	Foreign Relations Officer, IPU Group, Bureau of the Interparliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives <i>Responsable des relations étrangères, Groupe de l'UIP, Division des organisations interparlementaires, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

<sup>81</sup> (TRT: Thai Rak Thai Party  
(CP: Chart Thai Party  
(DP: Democrat Party

/ Parti Thai Rak Thai)  
/ Parti Chart Thai)  
/ Parti démocrate)

KLANGNARONG, Sompratthana (Ms /Mme)  
Assistant Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation*

CHEUJEDONGK, Worathep (Mr /M )  
Assistant Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation*

THONGKAMKAEW, Adirek (Mr /M )  
Assistant Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire adjoint de la délégation*

PUMHIRAN, Pitoon (Mr /M )  
Leader of the ASGP Thai delegation  
*Chef de la délégation thaïlandaise de l'ASGP*

VANIGBANDHU, Sompol (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP  
*Membre de l'ASGP*

RUPSUWAN, Montree (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

KITISIN, Picheth (Mr /M )  
Member of ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

AKSORNMAT, Samonrutai (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary to the ASGP delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation ASGP*

SUNGTO, Neeranan (Ms /Mme)  
Assistant Secretary to the ASGP delegation  
*Secrétaire adjointe de la délégation ASGP*

KANOKKAMALADE, Veerakam (Mr /M )  
Secretary to the ASGP delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation ASGP*

Foreign Relations Officer, IPU Group, Bureau of the Interparliamentary Organisations, Secretariat of the House of Representatives  
*Responsable des relations étrangères, Groupe de l'UIP, Division de l'organisation interparlementaire, Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants*

Foreign Relations Officer, English Language Division, Bureau of Foreign Languages, Secretariat of the House of Representatives  
*Responsable des relations étrangères, Division des langues étrangères (anglais), Secrétariat de la Chambre des Représentants*

Security Officer to the Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Responsable de la sécurité du Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

Assistant to the President of the House of Representatives  
*Assistant du Président de la Chambre des Représentants*

Deputy Secretary-General of the House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire général adjoint de la Chambre des Représentants*

Political Adviser to the Secretariat of the Senate, Secretary-General of the Senate  
*Conseiller politique auprès du Secrétariat du Sénat, Secrétaire général du Sénat*

Deputy Secretary-General of the Senate  
*Secrétaire général adjoint du Sénat*

Director of Association of Parliaments and ASGP Division  
*Directrice de l'Association des parlements et de la Division de l'ASGP*

Foreign Relations Officer  
*Responsable des relations étrangères*

Foreign Relations Officer  
*Responsable des relations étrangères*

#### **THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA EX-REPUBLIQUE YOUGOSLAVE DE MACEDOINE**

JORDANOVSKI, Ljupčo (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

RISTOVA, Karolina (Ms /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

KRALJEVSKI, Čedomir (Mr /M )

President of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Président de l'Assemblée de la République*

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 (VMRO-DPMNE)*

RAMADANI, Ismet (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Assembly of the Republic  
*Membre de l'Assemblée de la République (PDP)*<sup>82</sup>

OGNENOVSKA, Biljana (Mrs /Mme)  
*Adviser / Conseillère*

Adviser for multilateral cooperation  
*Conseillère pour la coopération multilatérale*

OPASINOVA, Marijana (Mrs /Mme)  
*Interpreter / Interprète*

NACEV, Blagoj (Mr /M )  
Security Officer  
*Responsable de la sécurité*

DIMOSKI, Igor (Mr /M )  
Security Officer  
*Responsable de la sécurité*

### TUNISIA - TUNISIE

SAAD, Thameur (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies, Rapporteur of the Committee on Politics and External Relations  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés, Rapporteur de la Commission des affaires politiques et des relations extérieures (RCD)*

HATIRA, Aziza (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Chamber of Deputies  
*Membre de la Chambre des Députés (RCD)*<sup>83</sup>

### TURKEY - TURQUIE

CETIN, Remzi (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Member of the Grand National Assembly  
*Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)*

ERBATUR, Gaye N (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council, Vice-President of the Group  
*Membre du Conseil directeur, Vice-Présidente du Groupe*

Member of the Grand National Assembly  
*Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (CHP)*

UNALDI, Mustafa (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the Grand National Assembly  
*Membre de la Grande Assemblée nationale (AKP)*<sup>84</sup>

BOZKURT, Rauf (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General of the Grand National Assembly  
*Secrétaire général de la Grande Assemblée nationale*

GIRAY, Buket (Mrs /Mme)  
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

DELIORMAN, Nuri (Mr /M )  
Secretary of the Group and to the delegation  
*Secrétaire du Groupe et de la délégation*

<sup>82</sup> (SDSM: Social Democratic Union  
(VMRO-DPMNE: VMRO Democratic Party of  
Macedonian National Movement

/ Union social-démocrate)  
/ Parti démocrate pour le mouvement national  
macédonien VMRO)

(PDP: Party for Democratic Prosperity  
<sup>83</sup> (RCD: Democratic Constitutional Rally

/ Parti de la prospérité démocratique)  
/ Rassemblement démocratique constitutionnel)

<sup>84</sup> (AKP: Republican People's Party

/ Parti populaire républicain)

**UGANDA – OUGANDA**

KADAGA, Rebecca (Ms /Mme) President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Présidente de la Commission permanente de la démocratie et des droits de l'homme, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of Parliament <i>Vice-Présidente du Parlement</i>
TUMWESIGYE, Elioda (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
ERIYO, Jessica (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
LULE MAWIYA, Umar (Mr /M )	Member of Parliament <i>Membre du Parlement</i>
BAKWEGA, Emmanuel (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	
TUMUKWASIBWE, Robert (Mr /M ) Secretary of the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	
MUBIRU, Stephen (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
EMODEK, Peter Kalani (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	

**UKRAINE**

STRETOVYCH, Volodymyr (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada</i>
OSTASH, Ihor (Mr /M ) Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada (NU)</i>
BOHATYRIOVA, Rayisa (Mrs /Mme)	Member of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada</i>
KOVAL, Viacheslav (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Membre du Verkhovna Rada (NU)</i> <sup>85</sup>
KOLESNYK, Iryna (Mrs /Mme) Substitute Member of the ASGP <i>Membre suppléant de l'ASGP</i>	Adviser to the Speaker of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Conseillère du Président du Verkhovna Rada</i>
BRUSYLO, Ihor (Mr /M )	Chief Consultant of the Interparliamentary Relations Department of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Consultant principal du Département des relations interparlementaires du Verkhovna Rada</i>
MYKHALCHUK, Natalia (Mrs /Mme)	Senior Consultant of the Verkhovna Rada <i>Consultante senior du Verkhovna Rada</i>

<sup>85</sup> (NU: «Nasha Ukraina» («Our Ukraine»)

/ «Notre Ukraine»)

## UNITED KINGDOM – ROYAUME-UNI

JOPLING DL, Michael (Lord) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (C)</i>
WILKINSON, John (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
MORRIS OF ABERAVON QC, John (Lord)	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (L)</i>
MEALE, Alan (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i>
MILLER OF CHILTHORNE DOMER, Baroness Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Lords <i>Membre de la Chambre des Lords (LD)</i>
ROE, Marion (Dame) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (C)</i>
AUSTIN, John (Mr /M ) Member of the Executive Committee, Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Comité exécutif, Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Commons <i>Membre de la Chambre des Communes (L)</i> <sup>86</sup>
COURTENAY, Kenneth (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	General Secretary <i>Secrétaire général</i>
REES, Dominique (Miss/Mlle) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire adjointe</i>	
MILSOM, Alexandra (Mrs /Mme) Assistant Secretary / <i>Secrétaire adjointe</i>	
COLLIER, Steve (Mr /M ) Adviser / <i>Conseiller</i>	
CUBIE, George (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Clerk of the Committees, House of Commons <i>Greffier de Commission, Chambre des Communes</i>
BEAMISH, David (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP / <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Reading Clerk and Clerk of Journals, House of Lords <i>Administrateur au Journal Officiel, Chambre des Lords</i>
PHILLIPS, Roger (Mr /M ) Joint Secretary of the ASGP <i>Co-Secrétaire de l'ASGP</i>	
YOUNG, Lynda (Ms /Mme) ASGP Secretariat / <i>Secrétariat de l'ASGP</i>	
BECKINGHAM, Peter (Mr /M ) Ambassador / <i>Ambassadeur</i>	
FITCHETT, Robert (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
PARSONS, Sarah (Mrs /Mme) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	
JIMENEZ, Karen (Mrs /Mme) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	

<sup>86</sup> (C: Conservative Party  
(L: Labour Party  
(LD: Liberal Democrats

/ Parti conservateur)  
(L: Parti travailliste)  
(LD: Démocrates libéraux)

## URUGUAY

XAVIER, Monica (Mrs /Mme) Vice-President of the GRULAC, Member of the Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Présidente du GRULAC, Membre du Comité de coordination des Femmes parlementaires, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Senator / <i>Sénatrice</i> (FA)
HEBER, Luis (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Vice-Président de la Commission permanente du développement durable, du financement et du commerce</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (PN)
NICOLINI, Leonardo (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Senator / <i>Sénateur</i> (FA)
PATRONE, Jorge (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i> (FA) <sup>87</sup>
MONTERO, Jose Pedro (Mr /M ) Member of the ASGP <i>Membre de l'ASGP</i>	Second Secretary of the House of Representatives <i>Deuxième Secrétaire de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

## VENEZUELA

VIVAS, Ramón Darío (Mr /M ) Substitute Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development Finance and Trade, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Vice-Président suppléant de la Commission du développement durable, du financement et du commerce, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Member of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Administration and Services <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Vice-Président de la Commission de l'administration et des services</i>
MATA, Victoria (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
FEBRES, Wilfredo José (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
SOSA, Idelfonso Nicolas (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GUALDRON, Gonzalo (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LEPAGE, Freddy (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
GARCIA JARPA, Julio (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
ROSALBA, Gil (Mrs /Mme) Assistant to the leader of the delegation <i>Assistante du Chef de la délégation</i>	

<sup>87</sup> (FA: Frente Amplio)  
(PN: National Party)

/ Parti national)

## VIET NAM

TRUONG QUANG DUOC (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	First Vice-President of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGO ANH DZUNG (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly <i>Vice-Président de la Commission des Affaires étrangères de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
HO THI TUYET VAN (Mrs /Mme) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
MAI THE DUONG (Mr /M )	Member of the National Assembly <i>Membre de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LE QUANG VU (Mr /M )	Deputy Secretary General to the National Assembly <i>Secrétaire général adjoint à l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN DUY THIEN (Mr /M )	Secretary to the Vice-President <i>Secrétaire du Vice-Président</i>
PHUNG VAN HUNG (Mr /M )	Deputy Director, National Assembly Office <i>Directeur adjoint, Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
NGUYEN TUONG VAN (Mrs /Mme) Secretary to the delegation <i>Secrétaire de la délégation</i>	Foreign Affairs Department of the Office of the National Assembly <i>Département des affaires étrangères du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
VU DAI PHUONG (Mr /M )	Foreign Affairs Department of the Office of the National Assembly <i>Département des affaires étrangères du Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
LE XUAN CANH (Mr /M )	Office of the National Assembly <i>Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
THIEU QUANG HAU (Mr /M )	Office of the National Assembly <i>Bureau de l'Assemblée nationale</i>
DINH TICH (Mr /M ) Ambassador of Viet Nam to the Philippines <i>Ambassadeur du Viet Nam aux Philippines</i>	
VU TIEN TRONG (Mr /M ) Embassy of Viet Nam to the Philippines <i>Ambassade du Viet Nam aux Philippines</i>	
NGUYEN THI MIEN (Mr /M ) Embassy / <i>Ambassade</i>	

## YEMEN

MAHMOUD, D Abdulwahab (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation <i>Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation</i>	Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives <i>Vice-Président de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALBARAKANI, Sultan S (Mr /M ) Member of the Governing Council <i>Membre du Conseil directeur</i>	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
BAFADEL, Abdurahman (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>
ALNAGEB, Idaros N (Mr /M )	Member of the House of Representatives <i>Membre de la Chambre des Représentants</i>

NAJY, Oras S (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the House of Representatives  
*Membre de la Chambre des Représentants*

SOFAN, Abdullah A (Mr /M )

Secretary-General of the House of Representatives  
*Secrétaire général de la Chambre des Représentants*

ALQISI, Abdulqawai N (Mr /M )

Head of the Speaker's Office  
*Chef du Bureau du Président*

### ZAMBIA - ZAMBIE

MWANAMWAMBWA, Amusaa Katunda (Mr /M )  
President of the Group, Member of the Governing Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Président du Groupe, Membre du Conseil directeur, Chef de la délégation*

Speaker of the National Assembly  
*Président de l'Assemblée nationale*

CHISUPA-CHIPWENDE, Juliana (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly, Deputy Minister for Technical and Vocational Training  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale, Ministre déléguée à la formation technique et professionnelle (MMD)*

MWIIMBU, Jack Jacob (Mr /M )  
Member of the Governing Council  
*Membre du Conseil directeur*

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)*

LUBINDA, Given (Mr /M )

Member of the National Assembly  
*Membre de l'Assemblée nationale (UPND)*<sup>88</sup>

MWINGA, Doris Katai (Mrs /Mme)  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

Clerk of the National Assembly  
*Greffière de l'Assemblée nationale*

MANDA, Irene Mwenya (Ms /Mme)  
Secretary to the delegation  
*Secrétaire de la délégation*

Principal Clerk, Public Relations  
*Greffière principale, Relations publiques*

<sup>88</sup> (MMD: Movement for Multi-Party Democracy  
(UPND: United Party for National Development

/ Mouvement pour la démocratie pluraliste)  
(Parti uni pour le développement national)

**II ASSOCIATE MEMBERS - MEMBRES ASSOCIES****ANDEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT ANDIN**

URQUIDI HODGKINSON, Enrique (Mr /M ) (Bolivia / Bolivie)

DUQUE GARCIA, Luis Fernando (Mr /M ), Vice-President / *Vice-Président* (Colombia / Colombie)

ARIAS SALAS, Mario (Mr /M ), Chairman Committee III / *Président de la Commission III* (Venezuela)

CLERY ARGUIRRE, Arturo (Mr /M ), Vice-Chairman Committee III / *Vice-Président de la Commission III* (Ecuador / Equateur)

VELEZ NUÑEZ, Ruben (Mr /M ), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
ASSEMBLEE LEGISLATIVE EST-AFRICAINE**

KINANA, Abdulrahman Omar (Mr /M ), Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the delegation / *Président de l'Assemblée législative, Chef de la délégation*

MBEO, Ochieng (Mr /M ), Member of the Legislative Assembly / *Membre de l'Assemblée législative*

MADETE, Kenneth (Mr /M ), Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Secretary to the delegation / *Greffier adjoint de l'Assemblée législative, Secrétaire de la délégation*

**LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT LATINO-AMERICAIN**

CORREA FLORES, Rafael (Mr /M ), Secretary General (Venezuela), Leader of the delegation / *Secrétaire général (Venezuela), Chef de la délégation*

GOMEZ, Fernando (Mr /M ), Vice-President, International Relations (Venezuela) / *Vice-Président, Relations internationales (Venezuela)*

TAYLHARDAT, Adolfo (Mr /M ), Member / *Membre* (Venezuela)

ZAMBRANO, Timoteo (Mr /M ), Member / *Membre* (Venezuela)

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (PACE)  
ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE (APCE)**

VAN DER LINDEN, René (Mr /M ), President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Leader of the delegation

*Président de l'Assemblée parlementaire du Conseil de l'Europe, Chef de la délégation*

KLEIJSEN, Jan (Mr /M ), Special Adviser to the President / *Conseiller spécial du Président*

SICH, Petr (Mr /M ), Head, Office of Secretary-General / *Directeur du Bureau du Secrétaire général*

**PARLIAMENT OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)  
PARLEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE DES ETATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (CEDEAO)**

OHUABUNWA, Chief Mao (Mr /M ), First Treasurer / *Premier trésorier*

YAKUBU, Hawa (Mrs /Mme), Member of the Women and Children's Committee / *Membre du Comité pour la femme et l'enfant*

AHMED, Halima (Mrs /Mme), Secretary General / *Secrétaire générale*

FWANGDER, Ezekiel (Mr /M ), Protocol Officer / *Responsable du protocole*

**III OBSERVERS - OBSERVATEURS****PALESTINE**

QUBA'A, Taysir (Mr /M ), Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council, Leader of the delegation  
*Vice-Président du Conseil national palestinien, Chef de la délégation*

AL-ALAMI, Abdelraouf (Mr /M ), Member of the Palestine National Council / *Membre du Conseil national palestinien*

SANDUKA, Zuhair (Mr /M ), Member of the Palestine National Council / *Membre du Conseil national palestinien*

\* \* \* \* \*

**UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION (UNO)  
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES (ONU)**

ORR, Robert (Mr /M ), Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Organisation, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Strategic Planning  
*Représentant du Secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, Sous-Secrétaire général à la coordination des politiques et à la planification stratégique*

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU TRAVAIL (OIT)**

HIROSE, Kenichi (Mr /M ), ILO Sub-Regional Office for South-East Asia and the Pacific, Manila  
*Bureau sous-régional de l'OIT pour l'Asie du Sud-Est et le Pacifique, Manille*

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)  
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE (FAO)**

JAIN, Ramesh (Mr /M ), FAO Representative, Philippines  
*Représentant de la FAO, Philippines*

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION (UNESCO)  
ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'EDUCATION, LA SCIENCE ET LA CULTURE (UNESCO)**

THEOBALD, Marie-Ange (Mrs /Mme), Head, Section for UNESCO Clubs and New Partnerships, Sector for External Relations and Cooperation / *Chef de la Section des Clubs UNESCO et des nouveaux partenariats, Secteur des relations extérieures et de la coopération*

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)  
HAUT COMMISSARIAT DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LES REFUGIES (HCR)**

RIERA, José (Mr /M ), Senior Policy Adviser, Convention Plus Unit  
*Conseiller Principal, Unité Convention Plus*

LECLERC, Philippe (Mr /M ), Senior Statelessness Officer  
*Juriste principal (Apatridie)*

SALCEDO, Rico (Mr /M ), Officer in Charge, Philippines  
*Responsable, Philippines*

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)  
FONDS DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENFANCE (UNICEF)**

BELLAMY, Carol (Ms /Mme), Executive Director / *Directrice générale*

CROWLEY, Peter (Mr /M ), Director, Office of Public Partnerships  
*Directeur du Bureau des partenariats publics*

ALIPUI, Nick (Mr /M ), UNICEF Representative to the Philippines  
*Représentant de l'UNICEF aux Philippines*

SHIFMAN, Pamela (Mrs /Mme), Project Officer, Child Protection Section (New York)  
*Chargée de projet, Section de la protection de l'enfance (New York)*

CHAN, Vivien (Mrs /Mme), Project Officer, Office of Public Partnerships  
*Responsable de projet, Bureau des partenariats publics*

IRONSIDE, Alfred (Mr /M ), Chief Media Officer / *Responsable médias*

RUTSTEIN, Dale (Mr /M ), Communications Office, Philippines  
*Bureau des communications aux Philippines*

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA SANTE (OMS)**

NESBIT, Richard A (Mr /M ), Director, Programme Management  
*Directeur, Gestion des programmes*

**WORLD BANK  
BANQUE MONDIALE**

HOBAN, Chris (Mr /M ), Acting Country Director for the Philippines  
*Directeur par interim pour les Philippines*

SONGWE, Vera (Mrs /Mme), Senior Economist for the Philippines  
*Economiste Senior pour les Philippines*

**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND (IMF)  
FONDS MONETAIRE INTERNATIONAL (FMI)**

HAKSAR, Vikram (Mr /M ), IMF's Resident Representative in Manila  
*Représentant permanent du FMI à Manille*

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)  
FONDS INTERNATIONAL DE DEVELOPPEMENT AGRICOLE (FIDA)**

ROY, Phrang (Mr /M ), Assistant President, External Affairs Department  
*Président adjoint, Département des affaires extérieures*

AZAD, Nandini (Mrs /Mme), IFAD Consultant / *Consultante FIDA*

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**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATIONS (IOM)  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LES MIGRATIONS (OIM)**

REED, Bruce (Mr /M ), Regional Representative for East Asia and Oceania  
*Représentant régional pour l'Asie du Sud-Est et l'Océanie*

SESE, Marilou (Mrs /Mme), Assistant to the Regional Representative  
*Assistante du représentant régional*

**LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES  
LIGUE DES ETATS ARABES**

ADAMM, Salem Mohammed (Mr /M ), Representative, Ambassador of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
*Représentant, Ambassadeur de la Jamahiriya arabe libyenne*

**AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY UNION (APU)  
UNION PARLEMENTAIRE AFRICAINE (UPA)**

ABDALLA, Abdelgadir (Mr /M ), Secretary General, Leader of the delegation  
*Secrétaire général, Chef de la délégation*  
DIAMANI, Kalombo (Mr /M ), Administrator / *Administrateur*

**ARAB INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION  
UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ARABE**

BOUCHKOUJ, Noureddine (Mr /M ), Secretary General, Leader of the delegation  
*Secrétaire général, Chef de la délégation*  
ABDEL'AL, Walid (Mr /M ), Deputy Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général adjoint*  
MOKAYES, Ahmad (Mr /M ), Director of Inter-Parliamentary Relations  
*Directeur des relations interparlementaires*

**ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION (WEU)  
ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION DE L'EUROPE OCCIDENTALE (UEO)**

GORIS, Stef (Mr /M ), President / *Président* (Belgium / *Belgique*)  
PAPADIMITRIOU, Elsa (Mrs /Mme), Vice-President / *Vice-Présidente* (Greece / *Grèce*)  
WILKINSON, John (Mr /M )  
Member of the British Parliament, Chairman of the Defence Committee (United Kingdom)  
*Membre du Parlement britannique, Président de la Commission de la défense (Royaume-Uni)*

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR AFRICA (AWEPA)  
PARLEMENTAIRES EUROPEENS POUR L'AFRIQUE (AWEPA)**

GADIENT, Brigitta (Ms /Mme), Vice-President of AWEPA, Member of Parliament (Switzerland)  
*Vice-présidente de l'AWEPA, Membre du Parlement (Suisse)*

**INDIGENOUS PARLIAMENT OF THE AMERICAS  
PARLEMENT INDIGENE DES AMERIQUES**

GUEVARA, Guillermo (Mr /M ), First Vice-President of the National Assembly of Venezuela  
*Premier Vice-Président de l'Assemblée nationale du Venezuela*  
MONTIEL, Arcadio (Mr /M ), Regional Legislator of the Venezuelan Group  
*Législateur régional du Groupe du Venezuela*

**INTERPARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY**  
**ASSEMBLEE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EURASIENNE**

BABURIN, Sergey (Mr /M ), Vice-President of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, Leader of the delegation  
*Vice-Président de la Douma d'Etat de la Fédération de Russie, Chef de la délégation*

MARYSHEV, Anatoly (Mr /M ), Executive Secretary of the Bureau of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Eurasian Economic Community  
*Secrétaire exécutif du Bureau de l'Assemblée interparlementaire de la communauté économique eurasiennne*

KORNILOVICH, Sergey (Mr /M ), Councillor-Secretary of the Standing Commission on the Economic Policy  
*Secrétaire-conseiller de la Commission permanente des politiques économiques*

**NORDIC COUNCIL**  
**CONSEIL NORDIQUE**

NISTAD, Thore (Mr /M ), Member of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communication (Norway)  
*Membre de la Commission permanente des transports et des communications (Norvège)*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION (PABSEC)**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE POUR LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE DE LA MER NOIRE (PABSEC)**

BAS, Mustafa (Mr /M ), PABSEC Vice-President, Head of the PABSEC Turkish Delegation  
*Vice-Président de PABSEC, Chef de la délégation PABSEC de la Turquie*

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE UNION OF BELARUS AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE L'UNION DU BELARUS ET DE LA FEDERATION DE RUSSIE**

CHERGINETS, Nikolai (Mr /M ), Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Leader of the delegation  
*Président de la Commission des affaires étrangères, Chef de la délégation*

BERKS, Pavel (Mr /M ), Member of the Parliament  
*Membre du Parlement*

AKSIONOV, Vladimir (Mr /M ), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

VITALY, Margelov (Mr /M ), Adviser / *Conseiller*

SHIDLOVSKAYA, Irina (Mrs /Mme), Interpreter / *Interprète*

**PARLIAMENTARY UNION OF THE OIC MEMBER STATES (PUOICM)**  
**UNION PARLEMENTAIRE DES ETATS MEMBRES DE L'OCI (UPMOCI)**

AUF, Ibrahim (Mr /M ), Secretary-General, Leader of the delegation  
*Secrétaire général, Chef de la délégation*

PEYROVI, Mohammad (Mr /M ), Assistant Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général adjoint*

**SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC)**  
**FORUM PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA COMMUNAUTE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'AFRIQUE AUSTRALE (SADC)**

MUTUKWA, Kasuka (Mr /M ), Secretary General / *Secrétaire général*

\* \* \* \* \*

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)  
COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE (CICR)**

PETERMANN, Yves (Mr /M ), Head, Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit  
*Chef, Unité de la diplomatie humanitaire*

FAITE, Alexandre (Mr /M ), Legal Adviser, ICRC Kuala Lumpur  
*Conseiller juridique, CICR Kuala Lumpur*

ANTOULAS, Symeon (Mr /M ), Head, ICRC delegation, Philippines  
*Chef de délégation, CICR Philippines*

\* \* \* \* \*

**COALITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (CICC)  
COALITION DE LA COUR PENALE INTERNATIONALE (CCPI)**

BALAI SERRANO, Evelyn (Mrs /Mme), Asia Pacific Coordinator  
*Coordinatrice pour l'Asie-Pacifique*

BOCAR, Byron (Mrs /Mme), Member of the CICC, Philippines  
*Membre de la CCPI, Philippines*

LOZADA, Rebecca Desiree (Mrs /Mme), Asia Pacific Programme Associate  
*Administrateur adjoint de programme pour l'Asie-Pacifique*

\* \* \* \* \*

**PERSONS TAKING PART IN THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTS (ASGP) AND WHOSE NAMES DO NOT ALREADY APPEAR UNDER A NATIONAL DELEGATION, AN OBSERVER OR ANY OTHER BODY:**

**PARTICIPANTS AUX TRAVAUX DE L'ASSOCIATION DES SECRETAIRES GENERAUX DES PARLEMENTS (ASGP) QUI NE FIGURENT PAS DEJA SOUS UNE DELEGATION NATIONALE, UN OBSERVATEUR OU UNE AUTRE ENTITE**

**LESOTHO**

MALUKE, Makhabane Gilbert (Mr /M )  
Clerk to the Senate, Member of the ASGP  
*Greffier du Sénat, Membre de l'ASGP*

Secretary General  
*Secrétaire général*

AL-SHAHHI, Abdulla (Mr /M )  
Secretary / *Secrétaire*

Head of Parliamentary Affairs  
*Chef des affaires parlementaires*

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES – EMIRATS ARABES UNIS**

ALSHAMSI, Abdulrahman Ali (Mr /M )  
Member of the ASGP / *Membre de l'ASGP*

**PARLIAMENTS PARTICIPATING AS OBSERVERS WITH A VIEW TO AFFILIATION  
PARLEMENTS PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'OBSERVATEURS EN VUE D'UNE AFFILIATION**

**PALAU**

TECHITONG, Okada (Mr /M )

Vice Chairman of the House of Delegates - Palau  
National Congress  
*Vice-Président de la Chambre des Délégués -  
Congrès national de Palau*

WILLIAM, NgiraiKelau (Mr /M )

Member of the House of Delegates - Palau National  
Congress  
*Membre de la Chambre des Délégués - Congrès  
national de Palau*

**PERSONS FOLLOWING THE WORK OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> IPU ASSEMBLY  
PERSONNES SUIVANT LES TRAVAUX DE LA 112<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE**

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN**

GONZATO, Silvio (Mr /M )

Adviser to the Director General for External Policies,  
European Parliament  
*Conseiller du Directeur général pour la politique  
étrangère, Parlement européen*

**OTHER PERSONS PARTICIPATING AS SPECIAL GUESTS AND  
TAKING PART IN ACTIVITIES FORESEEN ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
112<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

**AUTRES PERSONNES PARTICIPANT EN QUALITE D'INVITES SPECIAUX  
A LA 112<sup>ème</sup> ASSEMBLEE DE L'UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE ET PRENANT PART  
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