



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

150th IPU Assembly and related meetings

Tashkent, Uzbekistan
5–9 April 2025

Results of the proceedings



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

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150th Assembly

1. Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 150th IPU Assembly took place at the Tashkent City Congress Centre, Tashkent, Uzbekistan at 18:30 on Saturday, 5 April 2025.

The national anthem of Uzbekistan and the IPU anthem were played.

Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, said that she was thrilled to welcome delegates to Tashkent, the capital city, for the inaugural ceremony of the 150th IPU Assembly. The Assembly was a historic occasion not only because it was the 150th but because it would serve to strengthen relations between people and the State through social development, which was an important prerequisite for sustainable development. The IPU had a significant influence in contributing to the development of common strategies for parliaments to deal with various challenges through mutual recognition of best practices and experience. In a tense geopolitical context, the IPU's role in maintaining peace and security and resolving conflicts through parliamentary diplomacy was particularly key.

The IPU actively prioritized gender equality in its activities and had shared many effective mechanisms for increasing women's participation. It also advocated for the active involvement of young people in lawmaking and supported the new generation of politicians. In Uzbekistan, reforms were ongoing in all spheres of public life, in particular with respect to the role and powers of parliament, which had been expanded significantly. The Parliament of Uzbekistan played an active role in many regional and international organizations and contributed consistently to their work on the most urgent issues. She expressed her hope that delegates would have the opportunity to explore Uzbekistan and discover its history, rich spiritual heritage and modern way of life.

Mr. Nuriddin Ismoilov, Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan, welcomed delegates to Tashkent and expressed his deepest gratitude to the leadership of the IPU and its Member Parliaments for supporting Uzbekistan's initiative to host the 150th Assembly, a prestigious international conference. He noted that the President of Uzbekistan had strongly supported the initiative and paid special attention to strengthening the role of parliament in the country, including through consistently supporting its participation in inter-parliamentary cooperation. IPU Assemblies were effective platforms to bring together parliamentarians from diverse backgrounds and traditions with a view to solving the problems faced by the global community.

As part of the Uzbekistan 2030 framework, the authorities considered it their main task to ensure the peace and well-being of the people, and create a humane, sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular State in which the freedom, honour and dignity of human beings were the ultimate values. He expressed his hope that the Assembly would strengthen the coordinating role of parliaments in ensuring social development and justice around the world, and called on participants to engage in effective cooperation, open dialogue and constructive negotiations to develop new initiatives to that end.

Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thanked the Host Parliament and all the people of Uzbekistan for their warm welcome and noted that the 150th Assembly was an important milestone for the IPU, as well as being the first time an Assembly was being held in Central Asia. The IPU was also celebrating four decades of tireless advocacy and leadership by its Forum of Women Parliamentarians and she called on those present to take further action to achieve equal representation in politics.

Referencing the theme of the General Debate, she called for urgent and concrete parliamentary action on social development and justice and provided several stark examples of rising poverty, deepening job insecurity, persistent social exclusion and relentless youth unemployment. She urged parliamentarians to picture the human lives affected by such issues and expressed her hope for a substantial parliamentary contribution to the Second World Summit for Social Development, to be held in Qatar later in 2025.

Recalling that social development and peace are deeply intertwined, she called for enhanced parliamentary diplomacy, which could build bridges and open lines of dialogue while States built walls, exchanged bullets and spread mistrust. Parliamentarians held in their hands the power to address climate change and legislate for a sustainable future. In conclusion, she urged parliamentarians to take urgent, courageous and emphatic action for social development, justice, peace and a sustainable planet.

Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, added his thanks to the Oliy Majlis of Uzbekistan for its gracious hosting of the Assembly, which would be the 150th occasion at which the IPU had convened the global parliamentary community to debate the issues of the day and foster common understanding. The world continued to face multiple crises and the established multilateral order could be upended at any moment. He therefore wished to emphasize the vital importance of parliamentary diplomacy as a complement to traditional diplomacy. The IPU had many established and emerging bodies and initiatives providing a framework for dialogue and solidarity between parliaments. He looked forward to the Assembly potentially finally passing a resolution addressing the war in Gaza, as well as a resolution on the long-lasting impact of conflicts on sustainable development.

2025 was a special year for the IPU, as it would hold its Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in Rome, following on from the first hugely successful Conference in Marrakesh in 2023, as well as its Sixth World Conference of Speakers in Geneva. The latter Conference would be preceded by the Fifteenth World Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, the previous edition of which had been held in Tashkent in the very same building in 2022. Gender equality was the IPU's priority theme in 2025, and in March, the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians had taken place in Mexico – a country which had recently elected its first female President – with the aim of mobilizing parliamentarians around the world to improve gender equality in their own countries. To that end, the IPU would be launching a new campaign, *Achieving gender equality, action by action*, in the coming days.

A video entitled From Paris to Tashkent: Celebrating 150 IPU Assemblies! was played.

Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva declared the 150th IPU Assembly open.

2. Special address by the President of Uzbekistan

During a special segment of the General Debate at 09:00 on Monday, 7 April 2025, the President of Uzbekistan addressed the plenary of the Assembly.

His Excellency Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan, welcomed delegates from all continents of the world to Uzbekistan. It was a source of immense pride for his country to be hosting the first-ever IPU Assembly to be held in Central Asia, in the magnificent capital city of Tashkent. Having been a member of parliament himself, he recognized the role of parliamentarians in building strong bridges of friendship and offering effective solutions to people's concerns and problems.

In recent years, the world had witnessed an increase in armed conflicts, environmental and technogenic disasters, economic crises, trade wars and threats of terrorism. In response, parliaments needed to increase their involvement in maintaining peace and ensuring social development and justice. A primary task for all parliamentarians would be to identify the root causes of poverty and inequality and to mitigate their consequences. Uzbekistan was taking bold steps towards irreversible democratic reforms and the adoption of a pragmatic foreign policy, based on open and active dialogue with the global community.

In order to create a strong and responsible institution that could engage in effective parliamentary diplomacy, Uzbekistan had made efforts to develop its Parliament and enhance its role in society. The share of women in the Parliament had reached 38%, the culmination of progress recognized by the IPU as the fastest in Asia over the past 30 years. In 2022, the Parliament of Uzbekistan had spearheaded resolution 77/159 on *Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals* adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2022.

He outlined five issues on which he believed the IPU and its Member Parliaments could make a genuine difference. First, conflicts posed a serious threat to global peace and security and could only be resolved through diplomacy and peaceful negotiations. Second, climate change was a serious obstacle to development and must hold a permanent place on the IPU's agenda. Third, women's empowerment was one of the key prerequisites for social development. Fourth, youth empowerment in all spheres of public life was an urgent matter. Fifth, every individual's right to social protection must be ensured. In addition, cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence was vital, including effective regulation of such a rapidly evolving domain.

In conclusion, he looked forward to the approaches he had outlined being reflected in the outcomes of the Assembly, which would mark a new chapter in the history of the multifaceted and long-term collaboration between Uzbekistan and the IPU. He wished participants every success in the coming days.

3. Participation

Delegations from 129 Member Parliaments took part in the work of the Assembly*:

Afghanistan**, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia (The), Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar**, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Parliaments of Barbados and Dominica also attended the 150th Assembly in an observer capacity, with a view to future affiliation.

The following eight Associate Members also took part in the Assembly: the Arab Parliament, the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the European Parliament, the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

Observers included representatives of:

(i) the United Nations and related organizations: United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);

(ii) parliamentary assemblies and associations: African Parliamentary Union (APU), Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU), Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Association of Senates, Shoora and Equivalent Councils in Africa and the Arab World (ASSECAA), Collective Security Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly (CSTO PA), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), International Parliamentary Network for Education (IPNEd), Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy (IAO), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA), Parliamentary Assembly of the Union of Belarus and Russia, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Member States (PUIC), Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), and UNITE Parliamentarians Network for Global Health;

(iii) international non-governmental organizations: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI);

(iv) international political party federations: Socialist International (SI);

(v) other partner organizations: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Development Law Organization (IDLO), League of Arab States, and Sovereign Order of Malta.

Several special guests, including the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, also attended the Assembly and gave addresses at high-level segments.

* For the complete list of IPU Members, see [page 43](#).

** As per the decision of the Governing Council in Madrid in November 2021, the IPU continues to engage with the former, democratically elected parliamentarians from Afghanistan and with the Committee to Represent Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) for Myanmar. The corresponding delegations attend Assemblies in a non-voting observer capacity.

Of the 1,297 delegates who attended the Assembly, 697 were members of parliament (682 from Member Parliaments and 15 from Associate Member delegations), including 47 Presiding Officers, and 43 Deputy Presiding Officers. Member Parliaments' delegations included 254 women MPs (37.2%) and 98 young MPs (14.4%).

In continuation of practices established at recent Assemblies, the 150th Assembly was an in-person event with adaptations for hybrid participation. All of the session rooms were equipped for external engagement and remote interpretation and these technical capacities were well used throughout the Assembly. A total of 94 meetings were held, and all allowed remote participation.

The proceedings of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, Assembly General Debate and all sittings of the Governing Council were live-streamed in English and the original language, with a total of 9,491 views. See the [Media and Communications](#) section for more details.

4. Choice of an emergency item

By 7 April 2025, the following four requests for the inclusion of an emergency item had been submitted:

- *Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism* (Chile and Peru)
- *Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar* (Philippines and Thailand)
- *The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming* (Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt, with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group)
- *Ending the double standard: Calling on the international community to accept refugees from Gaza instead of exploiting them to attack Israel* (Israel)

The President informed the Assembly that, in accordance with Rule 12 of the Assembly, the Steering Committee had met twice, on 6 and 7 April, to provide an opinion on the admissibility of the proposals as per Rule 11.2 of the Assembly, which states that a request for the inclusion of an emergency item must relate to a recent major situation of international concern. The Steering Committee had agreed on 6 April that only proposal 1 met the criteria stipulated in Rule 11.2, and suggested that proposals 2 and 3 be revised. At the time, proposal 4 had been incomplete. On 7 April, the Steering Committee had met again and agreed that the revised version of proposal 2 met the criteria. However, it had expressed the view that the scope of the revised version of proposal 3 was still very broad, covering four different topics. Proposal 4 was now complete but the Steering Committee had observed that the language was not aligned with the IPU guidelines on abusive language.

The Secretary General read out the title and sponsors of the four proposals and confirmed that they had been submitted according to the procedure provided for in the Rules of the Assembly.

The President then explained that, to allow the Assembly to examine a broader range of pressing issues, and at the suggestion of the Executive Committee, provisions had been made for the 150th Assembly to potentially debate and adopt a resolution on a second emergency item proposal, provided the second-placed proposal obtained the required two-thirds majority of votes.

Delegates from Belgium, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe spoke against this experimental approach to a second emergency item. They stated that the current Statutes provided for the inclusion of only one emergency item on the Assembly agenda and that any amendments to the IPU Statutes required a two-thirds majority as per Article 31 of the Statutes.

A delegate from Iraq raised a point of order on proposal 4. He questioned its admissibility, as, in his view, the content advocated violations of international law. The President clarified that, in accordance with Rule 12 of the Assembly, the Steering Committee expresses an opinion on admissibility but does not make a decision, adding that the final decision is made by way of the votes of IPU Member Parliaments.

A delegate from Nigeria questioned the admissibility of proposal 3, which in his view covered three different subjects and was therefore not in line with the letter and spirit of Rule 11.2c of the Assembly.

After hearing the opinions of delegates, the President stated that, if the Assembly was uncomfortable with the idea of experimenting with a second emergency item, the experiment could be abandoned. Proposals for any future changes to the emergency item process would be sent to the membership of the IPU as required by the Statutes.

The Secretary General confirmed that there was no formal proposal currently on the table to amend the Statutes and Rules to allow for the inclusion of a second emergency item.

The President then confirmed that the 150th Assembly would have only one emergency item, and invited the sponsors to present their proposals.

The Assembly heard presentations of proposals 1 and 2, with no delegates speaking against them.

A delegate from Israel spoke against proposal 3, stating that it had been written with one purpose, to vilify Israel. He then presented and withdrew proposal 4.

The President said that, since Israel had withdrawn its proposal, it was not possible for other delegates to speak against it.

A delegate from Palestine then requested a point of order, stating that proposal 4 called for the displacement of the Palestinian people, which would be a violation of international law.

The Assembly then proceeded with a roll-call vote on the three remaining proposals (see [pages 57-59](#)).

The President announced that none of the three proposals still on the table had obtained the requisite two-thirds majority. The President informed the Assembly that this result meant that none of them could be included on the agenda of the 150th Assembly in accordance with Rule 11.2a of the Assembly.

5. Debates and decisions of the Assembly and its Standing Committees

(a) General Debate: *Parliamentary action for social development and justice* (Item 3)

During the three days of deliberations, some 125 legislators from 114 Member Parliaments, including 42 Presiding Officers and 12 young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of five Associate Members and nine permanent observers, contributed to the General Debate. The proceedings of the Debate were webcast, and many of the good practices and recommendations that emerged were reflected in the outcome document.

Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, opened the General Debate on 6 April 2025 and said that the chosen theme would provide parliamentarians with an opportunity to discuss topical issues such as poverty reduction, decent work, social integration and increased participation of the population in the decision-making process. With poverty and inequality increasing in many countries, a new global strategy was needed to ensure social justice. Uzbekistan had carried out many reforms in that area, making social protection one of the main priorities of State policy and enshrining the country's commitment to being a welfare State in its revised Constitution. The poverty rate in Uzbekistan had decreased in recent years from 23% to 8.9%.

Uzbekistan continued to promote the principles of social justice and decent work in the international community. The level of social development was the most important barometer to determine the mood of the population, and played an important role in maintaining peace and security in any country, ensuring universal mobilization for sustainable development. She hoped that the General Debate would give rise to new measures, practical proposals and recommendations which would form the basis for continued inter-parliamentary cooperation and be reflected in the outcome document.

Dr. T. Ackson, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, thanked the Host Parliament for having chosen a subject for the General Debate that was most timely and got to the heart of sustainable development with its focus on human, or people-centred, development. Human development boiled down to three priorities: fighting poverty, ensuring everyone could earn a decent livelihood, and strengthening social bonds.

Social isolation was an overlooked cause of disease and death in many countries. In recent years, many governments had pursued policies that eroded the fabric of society in multiple ways. The welfare state had been weakened through fiscal austerity, and privatization and technological developments were resulting in a society-wide shift towards heightened individualism. Income and wealth inequalities had grown, and work had become more precarious.

She proposed three solutions to ensure social development for all: investing more in people, by ensuring that the public sector took care of them and equipped them with the tools to thrive; making the economy work for all, through a fairer distribution of economic gains and involving everyone in economic decision-making; and strengthening all institutions that underpinned the social contract.

Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, said that, in his two years in the role, the world had undergone significant dislocations and now seemed on the brink of a new era. The globalizing project of the past 50 years and its promises of free trade and international cooperation were being rejected by some of the world's most powerful countries. Liberal internationalism had failed in part because it was more concerned with serving the interests of capital than those of ordinary people.

International institutions like the IPU offered a potential solution and they worked best when they focused relentlessly on the interests of the people they served. The Tenth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians, in September 2024, had focused on youth education and employment and had established a roadmap for meaningful action. Employment was not merely an economic necessity but a source of human dignity and social solidarity.

Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, said that social development without gender equality was an illusion, and justice without gender parity was an unfulfilled promise. Gender equality was a precondition for achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. It was not possible to eradicate poverty while half of the world's population remained economically marginalized. Decent work for all was not possible if women's labour continued to be undervalued, and full social inclusion required the dismantling of the gender barriers holding women back.

True equality would only come when women shared power equally in politics. The unpaid care work carried out by women needed to be recognized, reduced and redistributed, and equal pay for equal work needed to become a reality. The policies she had outlined were not just for women but for stronger, more resilient societies for all. Gender equality was the IPU's priority theme for 2025 and the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in her country, Mexico, in March 2025 had set the tone for a year of action in which equality would not just be debated, but delivered.

In a video message, **Mr. G. Houngho, Director-General of the International Labour Organization**, congratulated the IPU on its 150th Assembly, which was being held in a country that stood as an example of the progress that could be achieved on social and economic development in a short period of time. The IPU and the International Labour Organization (ILO) were neighbours in Geneva and worked together on promoting labour standards and issues such as child labour, migration and human trafficking.

The ILO's motto – “no lasting peace without social justice” – held truer than ever in a world in which 3.8 billion people had no access to social protection, 664 million workers lived in extreme poverty, and one in five young people were in neither employment nor education. Later in 2025, the ILO would be launching a new living wage initiative as a means of reducing poverty and inequality. He urged the parliamentarians present to endorse such campaigns in order to create the conditions for a decent and dignified life for all.

Ms. T. Molcean, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, keynote speaker, invited parliamentarians gathered at the Assembly to reflect on the path forward at a time of profound and compounding global challenges and rising inequalities. The world was facing a rollback of previously hard-won rights, widespread environmental degradation, rapid technological transformation, competition between countries, weakening governance, geopolitical tensions and a crisis in facts and science. Moreover, the promise of multilateralism and cooperation was being undermined as never before.

Against that backdrop, people around the world were renegotiating the social contracts that governed the relationship between governments, businesses, communities and people. Such new meaningful social contracts needed to ensure the following: universal access to healthcare, education and social protection; decent work for all; and inclusive governance, especially for women, young people and marginalized groups. Economic activity and growth needed to continue, but within the natural boundaries of the planet.

She encouraged parliamentarians to consider how to leverage innovation for social inclusion, ensure that green transitions were just and equitable, and bolster connectivity and resilient infrastructure. She welcomed Uzbekistan's recent accession to the Aarhus Convention, aimed at ensuring public access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making on environmental matters. Parliaments had an indispensable role in crafting policies to prioritize people's needs over vested economic and financial interests. They could also take steps to redefine economic success and social progress by incorporating well-being and sustainability metrics.

On 7 April 2025, to mark the 31st anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, the Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of all victims of genocide. The Assembly was reminded of the solemn duty of the global parliamentary community to promote peace and continue fighting on behalf of the victims of such atrocities.

On 8 April 2025, the Assembly observed a minute's silence in memory of Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, who had passed away the previous day while attending the Assembly as part of his Parliament's delegation. Mr. Ngulube had made significant contributions to the work of the IPU over many years, notably having played a key role in the organization of the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka in 2016.

(b) Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

The Standing Committee on Peace and International Security held three sittings from 6 to 8 April 2025, with its President, Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), in the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of debating the draft resolution *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum had been prepared by a team of six co-Rapporteurs: Mr. M.A. Bouchouit (Algeria), Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia), Mr. J. Buttimer (Ireland), Ms. T. Ts'ita-Mosena (Lesotho), Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) and Mr. T. Utikere (New Zealand).

Following the presentation of the draft resolution by three of the six co-Rapporteurs, 29 speakers took the floor to express their thoughts on the matter. During the drafting process, the Committee considered 156 amendments tabled by 26 Member Parliaments. The Forum of Women Parliamentarians had decided to support three of these amendments.

The Bureau of the Committee gathered on the morning of 8 April 2025. Its main decision was to agree on its next subject item and its workplan for the next two Assemblies. Four candidates were elected to fill vacancies on the Bureau (see [page 39](#)).

At its last sitting, on the afternoon of 8 April 2025, the Committee considered the revised draft resolution to be unbalanced and therefore unable to be adopted in its present form by the Assembly. The geopolitical groups, after consultation, decided to propose that all amendments be dropped and that the initial draft resolution be adopted by the Committee. The proposal and the initial draft resolution were both adopted by acclamation. The Committee also adopted the subject item and the workplan proposed by the Bureau.

On 9 April 2025, the President of the Committee presented the draft resolution at the plenary sitting of the Assembly, and it was adopted by consensus. The delegation of Austria expressed reservations on the use of the terms "use of starvation as a method of warfare" in preambular paragraph 8, and "political prisoners" in preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraph 1. The delegations of Germany, Hungary and Switzerland expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran expressed its opposition to the entire text of the resolution.

The delegation of Palestine welcomed the adoption of the resolution but called for stronger action, including sanctions and accountability, in the future. The delegation of Sweden regretted that no mention had been made of hostage-taking by Hamas. The delegation of Zimbabwe regretted that the role played by Egypt and Qatar had not been highlighted, and questioned the rationale of transforming the Committee on Middle East Questions into a Strategic Task Force on the Middle East.

The Assembly approved the subject item proposed by the Bureau and the nomination of three co-Rapporteurs for the Committee's next resolution (see [page 40](#)).

(c) Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

The Standing Committee on Sustainable Development held its sittings on 6, 7 and 8 April 2025 with its President, Mr. W. William (Seychelles), as the chair. The Committee was entrusted with the task of drafting the resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. The draft resolution and an accompanying explanatory memorandum had been prepared by the co-Rapporteurs, Ms. H. Fayez (Bahrain), Ms. E.T. Muteka (Namibia) and Mr. R. Fogiel (Poland).

Drafting of the resolution was conducted in plenary. The Committee had received 241 amendments submitted by 29 Member Parliaments. The consolidated draft resolution was adopted by acclamation. India expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 18. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 2, 10 and 21, as well as operative paragraph 21, citing concerns that the resolution neglected the underlying causes of conflict, such as inequitable global systems, foreign interventions and unilateral coercive measures, and omitted reference to the fundamental right to development. The Russian Federation disassociated itself from preambular paragraph 13, citing its position

as a UN Security Council veto holder; from preambular paragraph 20, noting its vote against the adoption of the Pact for the Future by the UN General Assembly; and from operative paragraphs 21 and 26, reaffirming its rejection of unilateral sanctions not authorized by the UN Security Council. Additionally, it raised concerns over operative paragraph 14, stating that the concept of “ecocide” lacked a clear definition.

At its final sitting and at the proposal of its Bureau, the Committee submitted a proposal to the Assembly for its next subject item and nominated three co-Rapporteurs (see [page 40](#)).

The Committee also approved a work plan for the next Assembly. It includes a debate on the topic of the next resolution, a panel debate on *The impact of global warming: A parliamentary call to protect the most vulnerable*, and a segment to prepare for the Parliamentary Meeting at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Brazil (COP30).

The Committee endorsed the Bureau candidacies as proposed by the geopolitical groups. The African Group subsequently revised its nomination, replacing the candidacy from Cameroon with one from Eswatini (see [page 39](#)).

(d) Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

The Committee held two sittings. At its first sitting, held on 7 April 2025 with President Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) in the chair, the Committee debated its next resolution, *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, which will be considered at the 151st Assembly. Two of the co-Rapporteurs were present: Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium) and Mr. S. Patra (India). The third co-Rapporteur, Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), was unable to be present at the Assembly. The debate opened with a poignant testimony from Ms. C. Fanon, a victim of illegal international adoption. A total of 28 delegations contributed to the debate.

Following this debate, Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) opened a discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

At its second sitting, held on 8 April 2025 with Ms. O'Neill in the chair, the Committee held a debate on follow-up to the 2024 IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*. Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada) moderated the final section of this debate.

Six candidates were elected to fill vacancies on the Bureau of the Committee and five Bureau members completing their first term were re-elected for a second term (see [page 39](#)).

For further information about the two debates, see [page 60](#).

(e) Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

The Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs held two sessions, on 7 and 8 April 2025.

The first session focused on the UN field presence in Uzbekistan. It featured contributions from Ms. S. Machl (UN Resident Coordinator, Uzbekistan) and Mr. P. Linnér (Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation). Ms. Machl described the work of the UN Country Team, which comprised 25 entities working to implement a Cooperation Framework designed in close coordination with the Government, as well as with the input of the Senate of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations. Also discussed was the funding of UN development work, which remained overreliant on earmarking from a shortlist of large donors, meaning that UN agencies had little flexibility to respond to evolving needs on the ground.

This first session stressed the role of parliaments in overseeing the design of UN country programmes, as well as in advocating for high-quality funding for such programmes with relevant ministries and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The second session of the Committee focused on the growing role of the BRICS in international relations, with presentations from Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil) and Mr. O. Malginov (Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan). The discussion built on the October 2024 session of the Committee, which had focused on the role of the G20. It highlighted important similarities but also differences between the BRICS and the G20, as well as how each of these groups related to the UN. The BRICS began in 2009 as an informal partnership of like-minded countries seeking to strengthen their political and economic cooperation within the multilateral framework of the UN. This recently expanded group has no aspiration to become a rules-making organization. It exists principally to help member countries harness the global economy for the benefit of their people.

Despite some misgivings, participants concluded that the UN had everything to gain from working closely with the BRICS and the G20, including through the creation of joint working groups. National parliaments have an important oversight role to play at the UN, as well as within these other informal groups.

The Committee also heard a special briefing from Ms. M. Lorenzo (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)), who reported on the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza and on how 10,000 UNRWA staff – doctors, teachers, counsellors and other professionals — worked every day to help people meet their basic needs in the face of the ongoing offensive by the Israel Defense Forces.

Finally, the Committee elected five new members of its Bureau (see [page 40](#)).

6. Special accountability segment of the General Debate

As at previous Assemblies, the General Debate included a special accountability segment chaired by the IPU President, in which delegations were invited to report on national efforts to implement IPU outcomes.

The President opened the segment by reaffirming the duty of IPU delegations to present IPU resolutions to their parliaments, promote their implementation, and report results obtained back to the IPU Secretariat. She stressed that translating global commitments made at the IPU into national policies was both a shared responsibility of Member Parliaments and critical to the IPU's mission.

Ms. A. Filip, Director of the Division for Member Parliaments and External Relations, outlined the IPU's annual reporting mechanism, which included a survey circulated to a selection of parliaments from each geopolitical group. The results informed a report prepared by the IPU Secretary General for dissemination and presentation at the second Assembly of the year. Ms. Filip encouraged wider participation in the survey and shared good practices identified during the 2024 cycle.

In the same spirit of promoting accountability and recognizing best practices, Ms. Filip reminded delegates that the 2025 Cremer-Passy Prize would be awarded to a parliamentarian with an outstanding record in the advancement of gender equality. She also outlined the IPU's collaboration with the World Future Policy Award (WFPA), in partnership with the World Future Council, which aimed to raise global awareness of exemplary laws and policies, helping to accelerate policy action.

After productive cooperation over several years promoting innovative and impactful policies in the areas of disarmament (2013), combating violence against women and girls (2014), the rights of children (2015), empowering youth (2019), and peace for future generations (2024), the IPU would again be partnering with the World Future Council in 2025 to identify outstanding policies to ensure that future generations would live in harmony with nature.

The segment featured presentations on winning and finalist policies from the 2024 edition of the WFPA, the theme of which was *Peace and Future Generations*:

- Ms. Filip presented the Feminist International Assistance Policy, a policy introduced in Canada in 2017 that placed gender equality and women's empowerment at the heart of the country's international development strategy, with a focus on advancing women's leadership, enhancing access to education and healthcare, and fostering inclusive growth and climate resilience.
- Ms. J. Morden (United Kingdom) presented the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which required public bodies to consider long-term outcomes in order to promote sustainable development and institutional accountability.
- Ms. K. Carter (New Zealand) presented the Moriori Peace Covenant, a 15th-century commitment to non-violence by the Moriori people of Rēkohu, who had endured centuries of oppression. The Covenant has inspired cultural revival and modern peace efforts.
- Ms. T. Bergman (Senior Adviser, World Future Council) presented a programme entitled From Arms to Farms, launched in 2010 in Kauswagan, Philippines, which had reintegrated over 5,000 former combatants into society through sustainable agriculture, reducing poverty and promoting peaceful coexistence.
- Ms. M. Kivelä (Finland) presented her country's third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2018–2021), which had reinforced gender equality in conflict prevention and peacebuilding, with a strong role for civil society and a global outlook on security challenges.

Following these presentations, delegates from seven other Member Parliaments took the floor to report on follow-up to recent IPU outcomes:

- Ms. K. Slassi (Morocco) reported on her country's progress in developing a dynamic green energy ecosystem, integrating renewable energy into key sectors of the national economy.

- Mr. H. Narayan Singh (India) highlighted the collaboration between the Parliament of India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which focused on integrating artificial intelligence into parliamentary functions with a view to improving multilingual access and transparency.
- Ms. D. Adehm (Luxembourg) reflected on the November 2023 visit to her country by the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and reported on follow-up measures, including advocacy for MPs imprisoned in other countries.
- Mr. A. Burapachaisri (Thailand) presented his country's green energy transition goals, which included achieving 50% renewable energy by 2024, scaling up green hydrogen and battery storage, and committing to 30% electric vehicle production by 2030.
- Ms. A. Erdoğan (Türkiye) presented her country's climate targets, set following the ratification of the Paris Agreement, including a net-zero emissions goal by 2053 and an interim emission-reduction target of 41% by 2030.
- Mr. F. Undurraga (Chile) reported on his country's 2024 data protection law, which included updated provisions on processing purpose, security and confidentiality, and established a national data protection authority.
- Mr. Phu Binh Pham (Viet Nam) explained how the parliamentary authorities in Viet Nam consistently transmitted IPU Assembly outcomes and resolutions to relevant national institutions, and highlighted the country's active engagement in parliamentary diplomacy at both bilateral and multilateral levels.

7. Special segment on gender equality

The General Debate included a special segment on gender equality, the IPU's priority theme for 2025. The purpose of the segment was to mark the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, to present recent IPU publications and to launch the IPU's new gender equality campaign.

The special segment included remarks by Dr. T. Ackson (President of the IPU), Ms. T. Narbaeva (President of the 150th IPU Assembly), Ms. C. López Castro (President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians) and Mr. M. Chungong (Secretary General of the IPU).

The 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was an occasion to recall the history of the women's movement at the IPU and to take stock of achievements so far. A series of portraits, entitled [40 years of action, 40 women of action](#), was displayed to pay tribute to the women who had contributed to building the Forum and promoting women's rights and gender equality.

The IPU report [Women in parliament: 1995–2025](#) was presented during the segment, as was [Women in Politics: 2025](#), a map published jointly by the IPU and UN Women. These publications showed that undeniable progress had been made over the past 30 years, with the proportion of women in parliament increasing from 11.3% in 1995 to 27.2% today. However, progress was slowing down. The IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians, held in Mexico in March 2025, had concluded with the adoption of a plan of action for parliaments on advancing parity. All parliaments were encouraged to use the plan to take appropriate action.

Building on the plan of action, the new IPU campaign [Achieving gender equality, action by action](#) aims to mobilize the global parliamentary community to accelerate progress towards gender equality in politics and society. Parliaments were urged to join the campaign and commit to taking 10 actions for gender equality. Dr. Ackson, Ms. Narbaeva, Ms. López Castro and Mr. Chungong were the first people to announce their commitments.

The special segment also saw the launch of the IPU, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) study [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region](#). The launch ceremony included remarks by Dr. Ackson, Mr. Chungong and Mr. J. Matiya (Deputy Secretary-General, CPA), as well as a video message from Ms. Siti Rozaimeriyanthy Dato Haji Abdul Rahman (Secretary General, AIPA).

The Asia-Pacific study, which followed on from previous reports on [Europe](#) (2018) and [Africa](#) (2021), found that online gender-based violence against women parliamentarians in the region was on the rise, with 60% of participants reporting hate speech, disinformation, image-based abuse or doxing online.

The study had previously been presented at the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Group, held on 5 April 2025. As part of its push for gender equality in 2025, the IPU also invited nominations for the [Cremer-Passy Prize](#), named after the Organization's founders, which this year would honour a parliamentarian with an outstanding record in promoting gender equality.

8. Concluding sitting of the Assembly

At the concluding sitting on 9 April 2025, **Mr. A. Sadullaev (Uzbekistan)** and **Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan)** introduced the Tashkent Declaration on *Parliamentary action for social development and justice* (see [page 45](#)). The Assembly unanimously endorsed the Tashkent Declaration.

Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), President of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, presented the resolution *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine* (see [page 49](#)). The Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus, with reservations expressed by Austria, Germany, Hungary, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Switzerland.

Ms. M.S. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates), Vice-President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, presented the resolution *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development* (see [page 52](#)). The Assembly adopted the resolution by consensus, with reservations expressed by India, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the Russian Federation.

The Assembly took note of the reports of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, presented by its President, **Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia)**, and of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs, presented by member of the Bureau, **Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad)** (see [page 60](#)).

The Assembly approved the subject items for the resolutions to be drafted by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, for adoption at the 152nd Assembly, together with the co-Rapporteurs that would be working on the draft resolutions (see [page 40](#)).

The Assembly unanimously adopted amendments to the IPU Statutes and the Rules of the Assembly, with the effect of mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout all of the IPU's work, clarifying the emergency item procedure, encouraging enhanced diversity among delegations to IPU Assemblies, ensuring a youth perspective in IPU resolutions, and harmonizing deadlines for circulation of amendments to the Statutes and Rules and for the preparation of summary records by the Secretariat.

At the conclusion of the Assembly, the representatives of the geopolitical groups took the floor: **Ms. A.T. Didiza (South Africa)**, President of the African Group, **Mr. M. Hadid (Palestine)** on behalf of the Arab Group, **Mr. Tian Xuejun (China)**, Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group, **Ms. M.d.C. Alva Prieto (Peru)** on behalf of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, and **Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland)**, Chair of the Twelve Plus Group. They thanked the Parliament, Government and all the people of Uzbekistan for their warm hospitality, as well as the IPU President, Secretary General and Secretariat for organizing another successful Assembly. They paid tribute to Mr. Roy Ngulube, Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia and member of his Parliament's delegation, who had unfortunately passed away during the Assembly. They expressed hope that the IPU could find new ways to address conflicts and crises around the world, in light of the failure of the Assembly to reach agreement on an emergency item. They expressed their renewed belief in the power of parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue, and congratulated all participants on the many outcomes of the Assembly, which they believed would lead to tangible parliamentary action on many important issues. They wished participants a safe journey home and looked forward to meeting again at the 151st Assembly in Geneva in October 2025.

In her concluding remarks, **Dr. T. Ackson, IPU President**, said that the landmark 150th Assembly had lived up to expectations and that the hosts had risen to the occasion to make it one to remember. Participants had presented inspiring examples of how parliaments were rising to the challenges of the time, and had also engaged in parliamentary diplomacy to develop meaningful cooperation and take necessary action forward. The Assembly had fallen short of adopting an emergency item resolution, but she urged participants to view that setback as an opportunity to strengthen coordination and deepen dialogue. In the Tashkent Declaration, the Assembly had reaffirmed a shared commitment to placing human dignity and well-being at the heart of policymaking, underscored the fact that economies must serve humanity, and stressed that democracy and development were deeply intertwined. She urged those parliamentarians present to continue their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, to invest in people's health, education and happiness, to protect the planet, to democratize the economy and to make sure that the institutions overseeing such efforts were fit for purpose.

In his concluding remarks, **Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary General**, encouraged delegates not to lose hope due to the failure of the Assembly to agree on an emergency item. He had been heartened to hear many delegates say that they did not come to IPU Assemblies just to hear views that chimed with their own, but to hear all sides of the argument. The Assembly had included over 70 meetings on issues pertinent to the global agenda. The IPU had taken the opportunity of the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians to launch its *Achieving gender equality, action by action* campaign. Looking ahead, 2025 would also see the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue and the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, and he hoped to see strong attendance at both events. He expressed his thanks to President Mirziyoyev for his patronage of the event and his speech on 7 April, which had inspired many aspects of the Tashkent Declaration.

In her concluding remarks, **Ms. T. Narbaeva, President of the 150th Assembly and Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan**, said that she felt a sense of melancholy as the proceedings came to a close, but also a sense of pride in an Assembly that had confirmed the IPU's status as an important international platform. Participants in the Assembly had discussed many of the common challenges of humanity and reaffirmed their commitment to global responsibility, peace and an openness to dialogue. She thanked all the delegations and experts who had participated; the IPU President, the Secretary General and the whole Secretariat, in particular those who had worked so hard over many weeks to liaise with staff on the ground; the interpreters, who played such a vital role in opening the channels of communication; and all the volunteers who had devoted such attention to welcoming participants to Tashkent. She believed that the 150th Assembly would be remembered as a bright chapter in the IPU's history and looked forward to meeting participants again at future IPU events.

Ms. T. Narbaeva declared the 150th IPU Assembly closed and the national anthem of Uzbekistan and the IPU Anthem were played.

215th session of the Governing Council

1. Election of the President of the 150th Assembly

On the proposal of Ms. A. Kuspan (Kazakhstan), seconded by Mr. N. Kurtulmus (Türkiye), the Governing Council elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, as the President of the 150th IPU Assembly.

2. Report of the IPU President

The Governing Council took note of a report by the IPU President on her activities since the last Assembly in October 2024. These activities consisted of attendance at and online contributions to high-level thematic meetings and were focused on: strengthening and giving visibility to the work of the IPU; consolidating cooperation with IPU Member Parliaments; providing parliamentary perspectives to global efforts to resolve specific challenges, namely advancing gender equality and reinvigorating actions to address climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts; and inspiring a new dynamic in democracy to adapt it to new sociopolitical requirements.

The Governing Council thanked the President for her continued commitment to the noble cause of the Organization.

3. Impact Report 2024

The Secretary General presented the [Impact Report 2024](#), covering the IPU's activities in the third year of implementation of its 2022-2026 Strategy. He highlighted numerous areas of impact across the Organization's five strategic objectives and the 2024 priority theme of peace and security.

In 2024, the IPU had:

- held a total of 78 regional and global events to mobilize and leverage parliamentary action and facilitate learning (held in person or online), including two Assemblies;
- organized 38 national support activities or events;
- produced 14 publications and tools.

The Secretary General presented a review of activities carried out under the IPU's five strategic objectives. Special attention was paid to the support provided to parliaments in transition and parliaments from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as well as to efforts towards achieving universal membership and implementing the IPU political project at the United Nations. Promotion of

gender equality and women's rights remained high on the agenda in view of the current slowing of progress and overall backlash. Climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals – with five years left of the 2030 Agenda – had also been a priority. New areas of work had been developed in response to interest from Member Parliaments, notably with regard to artificial intelligence.

In relation to the 2024 IPU priority theme on peace and security, the Secretary General highlighted the various initiatives carried out with regard to peacebuilding and mediation initiatives between countries; the promotion of the concept of human security, which places human beings at the heart of all peace and security-related work; and work on disarmament and science for peace.

Member Parliaments expressed their appreciation to the Secretary General and his team for the work accomplished, and in particular for providing support to parliaments that are faced with challenging political environments.

The Governing Council took note of the Impact Report 2024.

4. Financial results for 2024 and financial situation of the IPU

The Governing Council examined the Financial Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2024.

The financial results for 2024 were introduced by Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) on behalf of the President of the Sub-Committee on Finance, Mr. M. Dick (Australia). She reported that the 2024 accounts showed a sound financial situation, as confirmed by the External Auditors, and took note that expenditures had been within budget for each of the Strategic Objectives. The income from the IPU's investments had been positive thanks to the favourable market conditions in 2024. The IPU Working Capital Fund stood at 92% of its target level and the key financial indicators for the IPU had been confirmed by the External Auditors to be sound. She thanked Indonesia for the excellent service provided by its Audit Board.

Ms. O'Neill noted that the arrears of Member Parliament contributions had been increasing steadily in recent years. The governing bodies had requested a particular focus on this issue since it had been raised in the 2024 audit. She encouraged the governing bodies to continue to address this situation and requested all delegations to work through their geopolitical groups to try to reduce the list of Member Parliaments in arrears. It was important to maintain a political commitment to take the positive actions needed to keep arrears to a minimum.

The Executive Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 January 2025. The Organization's budget performance was on track for the start of the year so far and the IPU was in good financial health. Ms. O'Neill welcomed the strong results in mobilizing voluntary funds, which showed that the IPU continued to be seen as a valued partner.

The Internal Auditors' report was presented by Ms. P. Glover-Rolle (Bahamas) and Mr. A. Gryffroy (Belgium). They conveyed their opinion that the financial statements presented by the IPU accurately reflected its financial position as of 31 December 2024 and its financial performance throughout 2024, and complied fully with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The External Auditor had expressed a positive opinion on the Financial Statements with no reservations, confirming that all previous audit recommendations had now been implemented. The net assets of the IPU had decreased due to an operating deficit of CHF 0.4 million, consisting primarily of the write-off of arrears of three Member Parliaments whose membership rights had been suspended, and the increase of the provision for future potential credit losses from assessed contributions.

Two recommendations had been made by the External Auditors, who had proposed a comprehensive review of the IPU's Financial Regulations and Accounting Manual to ensure consistency, alignment and harmonization, and had recommended optimizing the financial reporting features of the IPU's accounting software to enhance efficiency and support digital transformation. The Secretary General had accepted these recommendations and indicated that the Secretariat would reflect on the best ways to implement them.

Ms. Glover-Rolle and Mr. Gryffroy concluded that the financial management of the IPU had a strong foundation based on internal controls and its financial position was healthy. They recommended that the Governing Council approve the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2024.

The Governing Council approved the Secretary General's financial administration of the IPU and the financial results for 2024.

5. Questions relating to membership and observer status

The IPU's efforts to reach universal membership continued to pay off, especially in the Caribbean. Following the accession of Bahamas and Jamaica in 2023 and 2024 respectively, the Governing Council warmly welcomed the Parliament of Belize, bringing the IPU one step closer to the total of the 193 countries recognized by the United Nations. In this view, the Governing Council recommended maintaining the current momentum in order to reach that objective.

The Governing Council was informed that discussions were ongoing with two other parliaments, those of Brunei Darussalam and Kiribati, with respect to their potential future accession. The Governing Council took the opportunity to thank Member Parliaments for their efforts to achieve universal membership of the IPU.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the requests for permanent observer status from:

- the Global Greens, a political party federation of green and ecological parties around the world, in line with its previous approval of observer requests from similar global political party federations;
- the World Water Council, with which the IPU shares a common objective in the framework of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Governing Council took note of the request by the Executive Committee for the geopolitical groups to follow up with Member Parliaments in arrears that were currently liable for suspension of their membership rights under Article 5.3 of the Statutes (Togo) or suspension of their voting rights under Article 5.2 of the Statutes (Argentina, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Lebanon, Liberia, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu) and to encourage them to pay as soon as possible.

The Governing Council concurred with the Executive Committee to note with regret that a number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), namely St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Vanuatu were also in arrears. The Council supported the proposed proactive and innovative approach of the Executive Committee, consisting of reaching out to the parliaments concerned to explore avenues to resolve this issue. To this end, the Council endorsed the Executive Committee's request to mandate the Secretary General to engage with the Caribbean Community through a visit to the region in the coming months, and to report back to the Executive Committee at its session in October 2025.

By the same token, the Governing Council endorsed the Executive Committee's recommendation to delegates to engage their parliaments further with the activities of the IPU by sharing the report and outcomes of IPU meetings with all their members.

The Governing Council endorsed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to suspend the associate membership rights of the Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) in application of Articles 5.3 of the Statutes and Rules.

The Governing Council heard the Secretary General's report on the situation of certain parliaments, grouped into three categories, and approved the recommendations made by the Executive Committee.

Concerning non-functioning parliaments, the Governing Council considered the case of both **Afghanistan** and **Myanmar** together due to the similarity of their situations. The Council took note with regret that no significant progress had been made since its 2022 decision to recognize the pre-Taliban Parliament in Afghanistan and the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) in Myanmar as the IPU's legitimate interlocutors and to allow them to participate in IPU activities in a non-voting and non-elective capacity. Maintaining that previous decision, the Council also took note that an amendment to the Statutes would be proposed at the 151st Assembly that would have the effect of stopping the assessed contributions of these parliaments and writing off their outstanding arrears.

In **Bangladesh**, elections had not taken place in 2024 as foreseen under the country's Constitution. According to recent updates, the elections would take place in December 2025 or June 2026 pending the reforms under way. In the meantime, the administration of the Parliament, namely its Secretariat, was functioning under the authority of a senior member of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. The Governing Council took note of these developments, decided to continue to monitor the situation, and urged the new authorities to take steps to ensure that these elections would take place in conformity with the reforms under way.

As for **Guinea Bissau**, the Council noted with deep regret that the situation was worsening, as the standoff between the Head of State and the Parliament continued regarding a disagreement on the timing of the elections scheduled for November 2025. In this light, and recognizing his efforts to restore

constitutional order, the Governing Council decided to re-emphasize its solidarity with the Speaker of the dissolved parliament, and to continue to monitor the situation while urging the authorities to organize free and fair elections as soon as possible.

The IPU membership rights of **Haiti** remained suspended and the Parliament had effectively ceased to exist in 2023. Elections had now been announced for November 2025. The Governing Council took note of this update and expressed its wish to welcome a fully-fledged parliament back to the IPU following the elections expected to take place in November 2025.

Kuwait had not had a functioning Parliament since its 2024 dissolution. The Emir had assumed legislative power and the country had continued to pay its assessed contribution to the IPU. According to recent information, elections would take place within a four-year period. In light of this update, the Governing Council decided to continue to monitor the situation and expressed its desire for elections to take place as soon as possible.

In conformity with its decision to support the transitional parliaments established following coups d'etat in West and Central Africa in recent years, the Governing Council had decided to provide similar support to **Niger** in light of a letter from the Prime Minister, Mr. Ali Lamine Zeine, dated 17 October 2023, assuring the IPU governing bodies that a process to establish such a transitional body was under way. However, no significant signs had been reported of progress towards that objective, and no updated information had been shared by the Nigerien authorities, despite many requests from the IPU Secretariat. The recommendations of a recent national gathering, held in February 2025, included reference to the establishment of a body called the National Advisory Council of the Refoundation, but without any specific reference to its modalities. Due to slow progress in setting up a legislative body to support transitional efforts, as was the case in Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali, the Governing Council decided to suspend the affiliation of Niger in application of Article 4.2 of the Statutes. The Council confirmed that the IPU's doors remained open in the event that Niger established a parliament and expressed its wish to rejoin.

As there had been no signs of a parliament being re-established in **Sudan**, the Governing Council maintained its previous decision to keep the country's affiliation to the IPU suspended until such a time as a legislative institution was established.

In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, following the collapse of the former regime in December 2024, the Parliament had continued to function for some time and had finally been dissolved in view of establishing a new Parliament at the end of a transitional period that had now been defined. Taking note of the update provided, the Governing Council welcomed the objectives set by the new authorities to create a transitional parliament and mandated the Secretary General to help identify possible areas of engagement and to provide technical support as and when requested by the authorities. The Council also requested to receive an update on the situation during its next session in October 2025.

The second category of the situation of certain parliaments concerned transitional parliaments. The Governing Council welcomed and expressed its thanks to the Secretary General for implementing the mandate entrusted to him to support the transitional efforts in those countries, all of which were in Africa.

The Governing Council took note of the updated information provided in the cases of **Guinea, Burkina Faso** and **Mali**. In the last two of those countries, security challenges remained as they were experiencing regular terrorist attacks. The Council expressed its hope to see the transition process enduring and urged the authorities of the countries to speed up progress towards the restoration of constitutional normality.

The Governing Council expressed its satisfaction with the smooth running of the transition in **Gabon**, where the timetable was being implemented as scheduled, with presidential elections planned for 12 April 2025 followed by parliamentary elections expected by August 2025, which would conclude the transition period in that country.

In the case of **Chad**, the Governing Council congratulated the authorities on the satisfactory conclusion of the transition, with the organization of parliamentary elections which had resulted in the establishment of a fully-fledged new Parliament composed of the National Assembly and the Senate. In light of this positive development, the Governing Council decided to remove Chad from the list of parliaments being monitored.

In **Libya**, some signs of progress, including the organization of municipal elections, had provided hope that parliamentary elections would be organized soon. In the meantime, the Secretariat would continue to provide assistance to the existing Parliament, based in Benghazi, following the signing of a new

memorandum of understanding at the present Assembly. The Governing Council took note of that development, decided to continue to monitor the situation and recommended that the Secretariat continue to provide assistance to the existing Parliament with a view to supporting preparations for new elections.

In **South Sudan**, recent updates had suggested that efforts to return to constitutional order had been set back by internal fighting within the unity government and the arrest of many senior leaders, including Vice-President Mr. Riek Machar and his wife. The Governing Council took note of this worrying development and urged the parties to work together and hold elections as foreseen.

The third category, countries where the political situation was impacting the functioning of parliament, included three countries.

For **Palestine**, the Governing Council took note that the ongoing tensions in Gaza were impeding any prospects of elections being held. The Council invited the Committee on Middle East Questions to help identify paths by which the IPU could make a more robust contribution to resolving the conflict.

The Governing Council was informed that parliamentary elections were planned to take place in the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** in the course of May 2025. Concurring with the Executive Committee, the Council believed that the outcome of those elections would be helpful in deliberations on the next step in resolving the status of the Parliament at the IPU. The Governing Council therefore decided to defer any decision on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela until its next session in October 2025.

Conflict was still ongoing in **Yemen**. The Parliament recognized by the IPU and aligned with the internationally recognized government was now functioning in exile. The Governing Council took note of that development and reiterated its call for an end to the conflict to allow parliamentary elections to take place as soon as possible.

6. IPU priority theme for 2025

2025 is a year of milestones for gender equality, as it marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 25th anniversary of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the 10th year of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the 40th anniversary of the IPU's Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

These celebrations take place at a time when the world is witnessing a slowing down of progress with regard to women's participation in parliament and widespread rollbacks of women's and girls' rights.

In 2025, the IPU is undertaking a series of initiatives related to gender equality and women's rights, including the production of tools and awareness-raising material (the [Women in Politics: 2025](#) map, the [Women in parliament: 1995-2025](#) report and the report on [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region](#) were all published in early 2025), the organization of global events on women's political participation and women's rights (including the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico in March 2025) as well as the launch of a major campaign: [Achieving gender equality, action by action](#).

The campaign aims to mobilize the global parliamentary community to accelerate progress in achieving gender equality in politics and society and emphasizes the urgency of immediate action.

The campaign promotes 10 key actions that both men and women MPs are called on to take and that are structured around three key thematic areas:

1. Promoting parity in parliament and politics
2. Encouraging gender-sensitive institutions
3. Combating gender-based violence and discrimination

The 10 actions are the most strategic and transformative actions that can be taken to advance gender equality.

They build on commitments already made by the IPU membership, through the *Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments*, the Kigali Declaration adopted in 2022, and the more recent plan of action for gender parity adopted at the Conference in Mexico.

7. Regional offices

The Governing Council was informed by the Secretary General that the Secretariat continues to monitor the situation of the establishment of Regional Offices in Uruguay and Egypt.

In the case of Uruguay, a host agreement had been signed with the Government in June 2023. Negotiations were ongoing regarding the finalization of an operational agreement between the IPU and the Parliament, which would define the budgetary responsibilities of each party. Following a recent change of majority in the Parliament of Uruguay, these negotiations were expected to be revived in due course.

In Egypt, progress had been made towards the drafting of a host agreement. An answer regarding the latest proposal from the Secretariat was expected soon.

8. Future inter-parliamentary meetings

The Governing Council approved the list of future inter-parliamentary meetings, as recommended by the Executive Committee. In addition, the Secretary General informed the Council that the Parliament of Uzbekistan had offered to host the Twelfth IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Samarkand in 2026.

In view of ensuring the participation of IPU Member Parliaments, the Governing Council took note that the Secretariat was endeavouring to provide more details on the meetings listed, including the date and venue, as far in advance as possible.

The Governing Council encouraged Speakers of Parliament to participate in the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (29-31 July 2025 in Geneva), preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament (28 July 2025 in Geneva).

9. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

The Governing Council unanimously adopted amendments to the Rules of the Governing Council, the Rules of the Executive Committee, the Rules of the Standing Committees, the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, with the effect of harmonizing deadlines for the submission of amendments to the Rules and the circulation of summary records by the Secretariat, clarifying the procedure for election of the Vice-President of the IPU by the Executive Committee, ensuring gender balance on the Sub-Committee on Finance, and ensuring a youth perspective in IPU resolutions.

10. Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

The Governing Council heard a report from the Secretary General on preparations for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, which would be taking place in Geneva from 29 to 31 July 2025, preceded by the 15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament on 28 July. Since the last Assembly, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference had met twice, in Geneva on 18 October 2024 and in New York on 12 February 2025. At those meetings, the Committee had agreed on the structure, programme, main themes and expected outcomes of the Conference and approved its Rules. It had also approved a first draft of the High-Level Declaration for the Conference, on the theme *A world in turmoil: Parliamentary cooperation and multilateralism for peace, justice and prosperity for all*. The draft Declaration had been distributed to IPU Member Parliaments on 6 March 2025, with an invitation to provide any amendments or feedback by 4 May 2025.

11. Reports of committees and other bodies

The Governing Council approved the recommendations contained in the reports on the activities of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP), the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the Committee on Middle East Questions, the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law, the Gender Partnership Group, the Advisory Group on Health, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG), the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus and the Working Group on Science and Technology. The Council endorsed the new appointments to those bodies (see [page 36](#)).

295th session of the Executive Committee

1. Debates and decisions

In an online meeting on 12 December 2024 and in line with its strategy to strengthen its support to the IPU's bodies, the Executive Committee had a discussion with the President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP). The exchange helped the Executive Committee to better understand the functioning of the CHRP.

The Executive Committee encouraged the CHRP to make the necessary arrangements to amend its Rules to ensure that every geopolitical group of the IPU would be represented among its membership. The Executive Committee also recommended that the CHRP address both the Executive Committee and the geopolitical groups more frequently, including at the joint meeting of the Chairs of the geopolitical groups and the Presidents of IPU bodies held in the context of IPU Assemblies. Finally, the Executive Committee pleaded in favour of increased support by the IPU membership for parliamentary solidarity, an important tool to help the CHRP to resolve the growing number of cases under review.

The Executive Committee also met online on 3 March 2025 to launch the selection process for a new IPU Secretary General in view of the forthcoming retirement of the incumbent in June 2026. From the outset, the Executive Committee recognized that the current Secretary General, with his integrity, dedication and constant quest for results, had set the bar high and that identifying a worthy successor would be a challenge. The Executive Committee discussed and approved the vacancy notice and the various arrangements for the process, namely that:

- the vacancy notice would be published on the IPU website on 1 April 2025, corresponding to the start of the 15-month-long process foreseen by the Statutes and Rules;
- 1 August 2025 would be the deadline to submit applications;
- in September 2025, the current Director of Support Services, acting as Registrar and point of contact for all enquiries from candidates, would examine, together with the President of the IPU, the applications received, to ensure that candidates met the mandatory requirements;
- in early October 2025, the President and Vice-President of the IPU would draw up a list of the 20 best candidates and on the basis of that list, the members of the Executive Committee would vote to select their top five candidates;
- in December 2025, the Registrar would collate the votes of the Executive Committee to establish a final shortlist of five candidates to be interviewed by the Executive Committee immediately prior to the 152nd IPU Assembly in Geneva;
- the Executive Committee would then submit at least two candidates for an election by the Governing Council on that occasion;
- the newly elected Secretary General would take office on 1 July 2026.

The mandatory requirements for the position include, among others: possessing leadership, diplomatic and negotiating skills, being fully committed to the values of the IPU, and having a moral authority beyond reproach and a high sense of responsibility and political neutrality.

The Executive Committee also took note that the vacancy notice would be published through numerous channels including among Member Parliaments, UN agencies and on social media. By the same token, the Executive Committee was assured that an outside agency would assist the Registrar during the final phase of the selection process.

At its sittings on 3 and 4 April 2025, the Executive Committee examined a request from the Parliament of Belize to join the IPU, which it decided to recommend to the Governing Council for approval. The Executive Committee seized the opportunity to extend its warm thanks to all Member Parliaments, particularly in the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean, which had contributed to this successful achievement. The Executive Committee encouraged Member Parliaments to maintain that momentum until such time as the IPU reached universal membership.

The Executive Committee also received requests for observer status from the Global Greens and the World Water Council, both of which it recommended to the Governing Council for approval.

The Executive Committee took note of the IPU Communications Strategy and congratulated the communications team on its good work. Members of the Committee encouraged the team to explore ways of engaging more with younger audiences through lighter content on social media.

In light of its strategy to strengthen its cooperation with the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council, the Executive Committee had a constructive exchange with the President of the IPU Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine, the President of the Committee on Middle East Questions,

and the Coordinator of the Group of Facilitators for Cyprus, and received an update on other peacebuilding initiatives, including the IPU's role in fostering dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea. The Secretary General was considering a visit to the last two countries in the near future. The Committee took note of the useful information received and encouraged those bodies to consider defining their expected deliverables and engaging in regular field visits. Such an approach would allow their members to get a clearer picture of the situation on the ground and fulfil their mandate efficiently. The Executive Committee also expressed the view that regular reporting by these bodies formed part of that approach. By the same token, the Executive Committee welcomed the suggestion of the Secretary General for terms of reference to be drafted for those bodies to clearly define their expected deliverables and a clear mandate in each case.

The Executive Committee approved a proposal for a revised version of the administrative arrangements for the Office of the IPU President. The Executive Committee took note that the administrative arrangements would continue to be reviewed periodically.

The Executive Committee reviewed and took note of the preliminary draft United Nations General Assembly resolution on *Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union*. The Executive Committee seized the opportunity to encourage Member Parliaments to strengthen further their interaction with the United Nations. In addition, the Executive Committee strongly encouraged Member Parliaments to coordinate with their countries' authorities to ensure that their permanent representatives in New York would sponsor the resolution in large numbers.

The Executive Committee received an update on the arrangements for the award of the 2025 Cremer-Passy Prize. It encouraged Member Parliaments to submit, through the geopolitical groups, their nominations of parliamentarians with an unrivalled track record on gender equality, the priority theme for 2025, by the deadline of 30 June 2025.

2. Sub-Committee on Finance

Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) addressed the Executive Committee on behalf of Mr. M. Dick (Australia), the Chair of the Sub-Committee on Finance, who had been unable to travel to Tashkent due to elections in his country. Ms. O'Neill informed the Executive Committee of the work of the Sub-Committee on Finance, which had met to discuss financial questions ahead of the session of the Executive Committee.

The Sub-Committee had examined the consolidated financial statements for 2024 and the External Auditor's report. The audit of the IPU's accounts for 2024 had been carried out once again by the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia. Mr. Dick had met with the External Auditor and received a formal presentation of the audit results, along with the IPU's Internal Auditors (represented by Ms. P. Glover-Rolle of the Bahamas) and the IPU Secretary General. Two new audit recommendations had been issued and all previous recommendations had been implemented in full.

The Sub-Committee had also reviewed the financial situation of the IPU at 31 January 2025 and stressed that the follow-up of arrears of Member Parliaments' contributions remained an area that needed the attention and support of all Member Parliaments. It expressed appreciation that most Member Parliaments were paying their contributions in full and on time, but the list of those with arrears remained too long.

The Executive Committee received and reviewed the Secretary General's usual update on the mobilization of voluntary funding. New funding had recently been confirmed from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the United Arab Emirates and the European Commission, among other donors. The situation of voluntary funding was promising thanks to successful fundraising efforts by the Secretary General and his team.

During the Executive Committee's sitting on 12 December 2024, the Working Group on Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules had proposed an amendment to Article 4.2 of the Statutes, covering certain exceptional cases in which the Governing Council had decided not to suspend the affiliation of a non-functioning Member Parliament. At that time, the President of the Sub-Committee on Finance had requested the opportunity to consider the financial aspects of this amendment before its adoption. The Sub-Committee discussed this matter and proposed some minor changes in the wording of the amendment. The Executive Committee approved those changes and proposed submitting the amendment for approval at the 151st Assembly in October 2025.

Ms. O'Neill thanked the IPU Secretariat team for its support and excellent work.

3. Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness

Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), Chairperson of the Working Group on Transparency, Accountability and Openness, reminded the Executive Committee that the mandate of the Working Group had been to oversee the implementation of key recommendations from the Transparency Report, which had been produced by an independent consultant and endorsed by the Governing Council in May 2021. He reported that the Working Group had convened online on 28 March 2025 to assess the progress made and was pleased to report that all recommendations had now been implemented. The Working Group had examined the final step of the planned transparency work, which was the introduction of a whistleblower policy for the Secretariat. The Executive Committee had therefore agreed to the Working Group's proposal that it would reconvene only if and when any new transparency and accountability needs arose.

4. IPU Secretariat

At its meeting on 4 April 2025, the Executive Committee was briefed on staff movements in the IPU Secretariat.

Subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council

1. Forum and Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The 39th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 5 and 8 April 2025. It brought together 401 participants, including 131 parliamentarians (104 women and 27 men) from 66 countries. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), opened the session. The Forum elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan, as President of its 39th session. In their opening remarks, Dr. T. Ackson (IPU President), Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General) and Ms. López Castro focused on celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. The Forum formulated two amendments to the second of these draft resolutions. The Forum also expressed support for gender equality-related amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed and supported amendments were incorporated into the text of the draft resolutions, strengthening the gender perspective of the texts.

The Forum also organized a panel discussion on *Women shaping politics: Global networks*, during which participants recommended strengthening cooperation between women's leadership networks. They stressed that collective action by networks was also needed to protect and promote equality against backlash and to mobilize male allies to stand up, embody gender equality and challenge gender inequalities.

The Bureau met on 5, 8 and 9 April 2025. The meeting of 5 April was dedicated to preparing the work of the Forum, and the meeting of 8 April focused on the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Bureau. Following that meeting, the Forum re-elected Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) to the post of President, and elected Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) to the post of First Vice-President, and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians. At its meeting on 9 April, the Bureau took stock of the results of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective and considered its future work, including mobilizing parliaments to lead action on gender equality, the IPU's priority theme for 2025. The Bureau was consulted on the social media self-defence training for women in politics developed by the eSafety Commissioner of Australia (see report on [page 67](#)).

2. Forum and Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 6 April 2025. It brought together 47 parliamentarians, 36% of whom were women. The meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In their opening remarks, the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, the IPU President and the IPU Secretary General reflected on the achievements of the outgoing Bureau over the last two years and acknowledged their achievements, which included advocating for the lowering of the age to be considered a young MP at the IPU from under 45 to under 40 years, and leading events to better connect young MPs to youth at the grassroots level.

Members of the Forum provided updates on recent developments in their countries, including new launches of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, and advances in engagement with youth parliaments, committees and councils. They also contributed youth perspectives to the topics before the 150th Assembly, calling for the strengthening of social development programmes – especially in healthcare, education and economic empowerment – for young people, for a just and durable two-State solution in the Middle East, and for greater youth participation in peace and security efforts in line with UN Security Council resolution [2250](#) (2015).

The Forum approved the nominations made by the geopolitical groups for membership of the Bureau for 2025–2027. The new Bureau then held a meeting, at which it elected Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) as its President.

The Forum appointed Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*, which will be examined at the 151st IPU Assembly in October 2025. Members of the Forum then held a discussion to inform the report.

At its meeting earlier that day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians took stock of youth participation at the 150th Assembly. They noted that this was the first Assembly since the age limit to be considered a young MP had been lowered. Bureau members also acknowledged that this change must go hand in hand with greater efforts to encourage parliaments and geopolitical groups to increase proportions of young MPs. They expressed the hope that their successors on the Bureau would maintain current high levels of participation, as well as build on the advancements made in connecting with young people and promoting gender equality (see report on [page 69](#)).

3. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Committee held its 177th session from 4 to 8 April 2025. Mr. E. Blanc (France), President, Ms. N. Odsuren (Mongolia), Vice-President, Ms. L. Quartapelle (Italy), Ms. M.G. Odhiambo (Kenya), Mr. M. Grujić (Serbia), Ms. L. Fehlmann Rielle (Switzerland), Ms. N.A. Odonga (Uganda) and Mr. H. Kamboni (Zambia) participated in the session. Mr. B. Mbuku Laka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) also participated in the session remotely.

During the session, the Committee examined the situation of 288 parliamentarians (31% of whom are women) in 17 countries. New cases concerning 48 parliamentarians were declared admissible, namely 9 MPs in Myanmar and 39 MPs in Türkiye. The Committee also held eight hearings with national delegations and complainants.

The Committee submitted decisions to the Governing Council for adoption on the situation of 266 parliamentarians in the following countries: Brazil, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Myanmar, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia, Türkiye and Uganda (see [the document detailing the decisions adopted](#)).

4. Committee on Middle East Questions

Since the last Assembly, held in October 2024, the Committee on Middle East Questions met once informally (on 12 March 2025) and once formally, in two sittings (on 6 and 8 April 2025). The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security concerning the proposed restructuring of the Committee on Middle East Questions, and to review a draft structural proposal for the composition and modalities of the Committee.

At its formal sittings in April, the Committee held a discussion on its structure, mandate and future direction, reflecting on the increasing complexity of regional crises and the need to ensure that the Committee remained responsive and representative. Members took note of the Secretariat's briefing on recent developments in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, which had further underscored the need for the Committee to broaden its scope beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Secretariat presented a proposal to expand the Committee's membership from 12 to 21 members and to establish smaller thematic and geopolitical subgroups, including a limited-membership Task Force. The aim of the proposed reforms was to enhance geographical balance, address structural imbalances, and allow for more targeted engagement on multiple crises across the region.

While members welcomed the proposals as a basis for strengthening the Committee's effectiveness, some raised concerns about potential challenges in preserving fluid dialogue and active participation, especially in an enlarged format. Others expressed reservations about the proposed expansion of the Committee's thematic scope, cautioning against diluting its original focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In response, it was clarified that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would remain central to the Committee's work, and that the proposals sought to enhance – not replace – the Committee's core mission. The discussion on the Committee's structural reform and mandate will be pursued further in future meetings.

The Committee discussed the possibility of conducting a mission to the region to assess the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The Secretariat informed members of a planned preparatory mission in May 2025 involving the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Committee.

Ms. M. Lorenzo (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)) provided an overview of the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank. She outlined the impact of the conflict on civilians and humanitarian personnel, noting the disruption of essential services, large-scale displacement and the suspension of education. She also referred to the operational and financial challenges faced by UNRWA, as well as the implications of limited access and growing misinformation. She provided updates on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. Committee members reiterated the significance of preserving the mandate and operational continuity of UNRWA, while highlighting the need to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

The Committee also heard from Mr. A. Al Manai (Executive Director, King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance) about activities to promote peace and social cohesion.

The Committee reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to a just and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-State solution and in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions (see report on [page 70](#)).

5. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 7 April 2025. The meeting was chaired by Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta).

The Committee discussed the follow-up to its previous session in October 2024 and reported on actions taken by its members in Australia, Chile, Kenya and Thailand.

The Committee called for the resources to which its membership had access to be made available to all IPU Member Parliaments and stressed the importance of coordinating its work with IPU Standing Committees working on similar areas.

The Committee received an update from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on recent developments with regard to Myanmar, with an emphasis on Rohingya refugees.

The Committee made a call to all parliaments to raise awareness about the Myanmar context, focusing not only on the humanitarian consequences of the recent earthquake, but also on those civilians, including refugees, who had been long affected by the conflict. Committee members also called for enhanced support from the global parliamentary community to ensure that those responsible for the war crimes and violations of IHL committed in the context of this conflict would be held to account. In addition, the Committee agreed to explore the possibility of a field mission to the Thailand-Myanmar border in order to gain first-hand insights into the challenges faced by those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

The Committee discussed the [Global Initiative to galvanise political commitment to international humanitarian law](#), launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in September 2024. Led by Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, the initiative aims to make IHL a political priority at global, regional and domestic levels, with all parliaments invited to consider taking steps and adopting measures to make IHL a political priority in their respective countries.

The Committee also considered the findings of the ICRC report on [International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts](#), focusing on the issue of the urbanization of armed conflict, and in particular on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The Committee discussed how parliaments could engage their governments in adhering to the [Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas](#) and in ensuring its implementation.

The Committee recalled its decision, taken at its October 2024 session, to organize future online briefings and webinars in partnership with the ICRC to inform and engage the global parliamentary community on IHL.

Finally, on the subject of progress in addressing statelessness, the Committee welcomed the recently adopted constitutional amendment granting Malaysian women the equal right to confer automatic citizenship on their children born overseas. Although the amendment has been voted on and passed by parliament, it has yet to be published in the official gazette and, as such, has not yet entered into force. The Committee looks forward to the publication of this amendment and its full implementation (see report on [page 72](#)).

6. Group of Facilitators for Cyprus

The Group of Facilitators for Cyprus met on 5 April 2025. The meeting was attended by all three Facilitators, Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Mr. H. Arshakyan (Armenia) and Mr. H. Carneiro (Portugal), three members of the Cyprus delegation to the IPU representing the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus, and three representatives of the Turkish Cypriot political parties.

The parties expressed the hope that the informal meetings between the UN Secretary-General, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, and the three guarantor powers, held on 17 and 18 March 2025, would lead to concrete confidence-building measures and the resumption of talks to reach a lasting solution to the Cyprus problem, under the auspices of the United Nations.

The parties also decided, over the coming sessions of the Group, to agree on one or more proposals for action the parties could take to support the confidence-building measures aimed at enhancing trust between the communities, which could be proposed to their respective institutions.

7. Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine

Since its establishment in March 2022, the Task Force on the peaceful resolution of the war in Ukraine has worked to foster political dialogue in support of peacebuilding efforts, while exploring possible avenues for cooperation to help address the humanitarian consequences of the conflict. The Task Force remains deeply concerned about the ongoing war, which has resulted in the widespread destruction of critical infrastructure and a tragic toll in human lives on both sides.

At its 13th meeting, held in October 2024, the Task Force initiated discussions with both delegations on five individual cases involving children relocated from Ukraine to the Russian Federation. It also held an exchange with a representative of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.

Following the meeting, the IPU Secretariat engaged in discreet consultations with the International Committee of the Red Cross to gain deeper insight into the legal and humanitarian dimensions of the issue and to explore potential pathways for addressing the cases in question. The Task Force also maintained ongoing contact with both parties, facilitating the exchange of information and legal perspectives relevant to the cases.

At its 14th meeting, held on 7 April 2025, the Task Force continued discussions with both delegations on the above-mentioned cases. Members were encouraged by the fact that parliamentarians from both countries emphasized that any children who had been separated from their parents, siblings, legal guardians or close relatives should be reunited with them, and signalled their readiness to assist the Task Force in this process, including on any new cases presented.

The Task Force also noted that recent months had seen a marked acceleration of global developments and diplomatic efforts aimed at addressing the war in Ukraine and securing a negotiated resolution to the conflict. In keeping with the IPU's founding mission to provide a platform for parliamentary diplomacy and dialogue for peace – and its position as the last remaining forum in which parliamentarians from both the Russian Federation and Ukraine continued to engage – the Task Force discussed with both delegations opportunities to complement existing governmental efforts. These discussions also extended more broadly to matters relating to European security and the potential

role of parliamentary dialogue in fostering stability and mutual understanding. While both delegations had indicated that they did not hold a mandate to engage in negotiations, the Task Force welcomed the fact that each expressed openness to exploring ways to make better use of the platform provided by the IPU, including through enhanced communication and more regular exchanges between Assemblies.

8. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism

At its 18th meeting, held on 5 April 2025, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) elected Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) as its new Chairperson and Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France) as its new Vice-Chairperson. Both will serve a one-year term, with the possibility of re-election for an additional year.

An updated 2025 work programme was presented, including expert meetings on the definition of terrorism, on the implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the context of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and on the connection between migration and the prevention of violent extremism. Regional meetings will take place in Latin America and Africa. Libya has offered to host a visit to Benghazi and has proposed hosting the next Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism. This proposal remains under discussion.

On the topic of defining terrorism, participants reaffirmed the importance of establishing a clear and depoliticized definition that took into account the protection of human rights and built upon the progress already made within the United Nations. While a universally agreed definition does not yet exist, there was consensus that efforts should not start from scratch, and that any future definition should be framed in such a way that counter-terrorism measures could not be misused to target political opponents, civil society or human rights defenders. Group members heard that such a definition should include two essential elements: first, the commission of criminal acts that intentionally caused death or serious bodily harm (*actus reus*); and second, a specific intent beyond the act itself, such as intimidating a population, or coercing a government or international organization to take, or refrain from taking, a particular action. The need to avoid misclassifying other forms of violence as terrorism was also emphasized.

A key topic discussed was the implementation of the ad hoc committee for the *Call of the Sahel*. The committee will address five key priority areas: development, education, security, environment and communities. Facilitators have been identified for all areas other than “communities”. Work will be supported by the IPU Secretariat in collaboration with UN agencies, other international organizations, academia and non-governmental organizations.

The meeting also featured an initial exchange on the growing impact of AI in the context of terrorism and transnational organized crime. Three experts contributed to the discussion: Mr. S. Stroobants (Institute for Economics and Peace), Ms. W. O'Brien (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and Mr. N. Tankoano (Parliament of Burkina Faso). The experts explored how terrorist and criminal networks were increasingly leveraging AI tools and digital platforms for planning, recruitment, propaganda and financing, particularly through cryptocurrencies. Concerns were raised about the role of AI in enabling lone actors to operate with minimal digital footprints, making them significantly harder to detect and monitor.

Participants emphasized the urgent need to update legal and policy frameworks to keep pace with these evolving threats. In response, the Group announced that a dedicated expert meeting would be held later in 2025 with a view to further exploring the role of AI in terrorism and organized crime. The event will bring together parliamentarians, policy experts, technologists and international stakeholders to identify practical legislative responses and strengthen global cooperation. The Group reaffirmed its commitment to addressing the challenges posed by emerging technologies, while ensuring that all efforts remained anchored in the protection of human rights and the rule of law.

The Chairperson closed the meeting by thanking the Secretariat. She urged members to reinforce their commitment to key priorities, including defining terrorism, implementing the 2025 work programme and advancing the *Call of the Sahel* initiative. She also noted the need to appoint a facilitator for the “communities” priority area. She invited all members to attend the next HLAG meeting, to be held in Geneva in October 2025 (see report on [page 74](#)).

9. Working Group on Science and Technology

One sitting of the Working Group was held in Tashkent on 7 April 2025, with 11 members in attendance.

During the sitting, Working Group members detailed the progress of discussions in their respective parliaments regarding the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology*, with a view to ensuring parliamentary awareness of the Charter and exploring opportunities for its implementation. Members also discussed strategies to promote the Charter as a model for incorporating ethical considerations into the development and deployment of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI).

The Working Group heard a presentation from Mr. W.S. Cheng (Head of Impact, Innovation and Development, Globethics), who emphasized how ethical principles such as those set out in the Charter could guide efforts to close the digital divide between the Global North and South. Mr. Cheng raised a number of pressing issues and challenges posed by AI, including misinformation, election interference, job displacement, exploitative labour conditions and the erosion of human critical thinking. He urged parliamentarians to reframe AI as a global common good, advocate for bans on military AI, and support AI diplomacy for peace.

The Working Group was briefed on preparations for the upcoming second Science for Peace School, which would focus on *Understanding artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on parliamentary work: AI, human consciousness and ethics*. This second School will feature two sessions: an executive session for parliamentary staff, to be held at the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) in Allan, Jordan, on 5–9 May 2025, and a parliamentary session, to be held at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE) in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, on 10–12 September 2025.

Working Group members discussed the findings of a survey on parliamentarians' use of scientific research and identified significant barriers to the effective use of scientific evidence, including time constraints and a lack of staff and resources to translate complex evidence into actionable knowledge. Members also discussed concrete strategies and steps to overcome some of these challenges (see report on [page 76](#)).

10. Gender Partnership Group

The Gender Partnership Group held its 51st session on 4 and 8 April 2025. In attendance were the Chair, Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), as well as Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) and Mr. A. Almodóbar Barceló (Spain).

As per its mandate, the Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, as well as in IPU bodies and Assemblies. It examined the composition of delegations at the 150th Assembly. As of 10 April 2025, 37.2% of the delegates at the Assembly were women (see [page 78](#)), which was an improvement on the previous five Assemblies but still below the record 39% women delegates in Nusa Dua in 2022 and in Madrid in 2021. At this Assembly, 47 delegations out of 127 (37%) were gender-balanced, meaning that they were composed of 40–60% women or men. This was a slightly lower percentage than at the previous Assembly (see [page 79](#)). Of the 127 delegations present, 123 were composed of at least two delegates, of which 10 were all-male (8.1%). In addition, four delegations of two or more delegates were composed entirely of women. All in all, three delegations were subject to sanctions at this Assembly.

The Group welcomed the ongoing amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules that sought to enhance gender balance in delegations and the leadership of IPU bodies and, ultimately, reach gender parity. The Group stressed that measures to ensure gender parity at the IPU should remain gender-neutral, and that any sanctions should apply equally to all-male and all-female delegations. Ultimately, the Group wished to see all delegations at IPU Assemblies being as close as possible to a 50/50 split of men and women delegates.

The Group took stock of the measures taken to implement the IPU anti-harassment policy. The policy continued to be made available on IPU platforms and promoted during meetings. Anti-harassment training had been provided to all IPU staff and consultants. Additional training sessions would also be proposed for MPs and other participants at the 151st IPU Assembly. The Group further highlighted the importance of ensuring that host agreements for all IPU Assemblies and conferences included specific provisions on adherence to the policy. It furthermore recommended that the policy be widely disseminated in parliaments to inspire those who wished to take action in this regard.

The Group reviewed the state of women's participation in national parliaments, with a focus on those that had few or no women members. Notable progress had been made, with women accounting for 27.2% of MPs in the world today, up from 11.3% in 1995. However, following the parliamentary renewals held in 2024, progress had been slower than in previous years, with a gain of a mere 0.3 percentage points in terms of women's representation. In addition, three lower or single chambers had zero women.

The Group had a fruitful dialogue with the delegation from Algeria. Since its independence in 1962, Algeria has been promoting women's rights and participation in all spheres of life. In 2012, Algeria made history by electing over 31% women to its lower chamber, following the adoption of mandatory gender quotas. In 2020, the new Constitution called for 50/50 gender parity. However, the electoral law that applied to the 2021 elections did not foresee strict application of the parity objective for party lists, and women were only elected to 8.1% of seats. The delegation indicated that the electoral and political parties laws would be amended ahead of the 2026 elections to the lower chamber in order to enforce the 50/50 gender quota and ensure women also occupied leadership roles within the parties. In addition, awareness-raising measures for the public, political parties and political leaders were being envisaged, as was training for women MPs. The Group was encouraged by the measures announced and indicated that the IPU stood ready to support the Parliament of Algeria's efforts ahead of the 2026 elections, should such support be required.

The Group also met with the delegation from Maldives, where women's representation in parliament had dipped to 3.2% following the 2024 elections (down from 4.6% in 2019). This was the third dialogue the Group had held with Maldives. The delegation indicated that recent measures to ensure women's representation in local politics, where a 30% gender quota applied, were gradually changing the perception of women in politics in the country, although not as quickly or by as much as expected. Parliament had implemented numerous measures ahead of the 2024 elections, such as awareness-raising among the public, practice parliaments for women and training for women candidates. However, accessing parliament remained a major challenge for women due to persistent stereotypes and resistance among male politicians, as well as online violence against women MPs. A proposed quota law for parliament, put forward in 2024, had not received the requisite support. In view of this situation, there was a need to raise awareness about women's contribution to governance at all levels – through school curricula, grassroot dialogues, and awareness-raising for the media and political parties. Ensuring women had the necessary financial support to run for political-party primaries was also identified as an important step towards levelling the playing field. The IPU remains available to support parliament's efforts to shift public perceptions on women in politics and build will among political parties to allocate seats for women candidates.

11. Advisory Group on Health

The Advisory Group on Health met on 7 April 2025 for its 32nd and last meeting before its transformation into an IPU Committee. The rules of the Committee on Health, approved at the 149th Assembly, establish a committee of 15 members with a mandate to promote parliamentary engagement on health at the global, regional and national level, focusing on inequalities and discrimination in access to health.

The Group adopted a revised accountability framework for the 2019 IPU resolution *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. This framework focuses on legal provisions for universal health coverage (UHC), barriers to access to health, and the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Group highlighted the importance of monitoring parliamentary efforts on UHC.

The Group heard reports from the World Health Organization and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health on the negative consequences of cuts to global health aid. Areas particularly affected include immunization, health emergencies, the collection of health data at the national level, and the promotion of women's empowerment and diversity. The Group reflected on the place of health and development in a world marked by conflicts and crises of different natures.

Finally, the Group took stock of its work since its inception in 2006, including the documentation of law reforms to strengthen national HIV/AIDS responses, the first attempt to document parliamentary contributions towards UHC, and constant attention and dialogue on sensitive topics such as sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Group highlighted the relevance of the current health priorities going forward. It expressed its wish for the new Committee on Health to build on the strong legacy of the Advisory Group and continue raising the visibility of health within the IPU (see report on [page 73](#)).

Other activities and events

1. Joint meeting of the Chairs of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU

On 5 April 2025, the IPU President and Secretary General met with the Chairs of the geopolitical groups, the Presidents of the Standing Committees and the Presidents of the other specialized bodies of the IPU.

The IPU President welcomed participants to the first edition of this meeting, which was held in an expanded format and included the Presidents of all subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council. She emphasized that this development was in line with the ongoing modernization of the IPU's Statutes and Rules. In accordance with Rule 9 of the Assembly, she underscored the importance of strengthening coordination across IPU bodies, particularly given the complexity and breadth of IPU Assemblies. By bringing together the various workstreams of the Organization, synergies could be further identified, thus raising the quality of outcomes.

Ms. A. Filip, IPU Director of the Division of Member Parliaments and External Relations, presented the highlights of the 150th IPU Assembly. These included:

- The General Debate's focus on *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*
- A special address by Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- A special segment marking the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, alongside the launch of a new IPU gender equality campaign
- The adoption of amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Ms. Filip emphasized the need for improved coordination and communication between geopolitical groups and IPU bodies, particularly in shaping the upcoming IPU 2027–2032 Strategy.

Mr. E. Blanc (France), President of the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, reported on the Committee's recent work. He noted a marked increase in cases of violations of parliamentarians' rights and emphasized the importance of timely cooperation among all actors. He encouraged the dissemination of decisions, coordinated responses, and regular information-sharing to maximize collective impact in safeguarding institutions and protecting threatened parliamentarians.

The meeting's participants held a discussion on modalities to enhance communication and coordination within and between the geopolitical groups and the specialized IPU bodies:

- Mr. B. Gado Idi, Coordinator of the African Group, reported that a special committee had been established to prepare an emergency item proposal focused on ending armed conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and Ukraine. He also stressed the importance of coordination across geopolitical groups with regard to the emergency item process.
- Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), President of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights, raised concerns about the growing number of IPU committees and the risk of fragmentation. She stressed the need for greater integration and coordination across bodies, pointing to the lack of a visual or structural framework that captured the intersectionality of the IPU's bodies. Ms. O'Neill also noted the divergent practices between geopolitical groups – particularly between the Asia-Pacific Group and the Twelve Plus Group – and suggested harmonizing internal processes, for instance with a standardized set of agenda items across groups. She further suggested that the Twelve Plus Group could play a role in sharing best practices with other groups to support greater discussion and coordination beyond the Assemblies.
- Mr. Tian Xuejun (China), Chair of the Asia-Pacific Group, put forward three proposals to strengthen the role and effectiveness of geopolitical groups within the IPU. In addition to encouraging deeper mutual learning across groups, highlighting the Asia-Pacific Group's commitment to the coexistence of diverse civilizations, he called for stronger institutional coordination and stressed the need to improve implementation mechanisms by enhancing information-sharing and reporting on legislative progress.
- Mr. B. Boughali (Algeria), President of the Arab Group, conveyed that the success of the IPU depended on the effective implementation of its resolutions by all Member Parliaments. He also reiterated the Arab Group's call for Arabic translation of all IPU documents.

- Mr. M. Nadir (Guyana), President of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), highlighted the importance of ensuring that the IPU 2027–2032 Strategy included a more localized focus. He also called on all geopolitical groups and the IPU leadership to engage more directly with parliaments that had become disengaged from the Organization. He affirmed that GRULAC remained open to increased contact and collaboration between the geopolitical groups, the IPU Secretariat and other IPU bodies.
- Mr. L. Wehrli (Switzerland), Chair of the Twelve Plus Group, welcomed the idea of increased collaboration between geopolitical groups, particularly through the exchange of agendas and coordinated approaches to the emergency item. He conveyed that the Twelve Plus Group stood ready to share best organizational practices with other groups. Regarding the IPU 2027–2032 Strategy, Mr. Wehrli pointed out the need to allow sufficient time for meaningful exchanges with the geopolitical groups. He underlined the importance of receiving a clear calendar for consultations.
- Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus), President of the Eurasia Group, expressed support for the expanded format of the meeting and welcomed the inclusion of additional IPU bodies. At the same time, he encouraged the preservation of past good practices, particularly the sharing of updates by the Chairs of the geopolitical groups. He also recalled that 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the victory over fascism and noted that the Eurasia Group had issued a statement on this occasion.
- Mr. W. William (Seychelles), President of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, argued that the grouping of Member Parliaments from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) should also have been taking part in the discussions and advocated for their better integration within geopolitical group deliberations.

Concluding the meeting, the IPU President agreed that the agenda item on reports from geopolitical groups would be reinstated in future meetings. Acknowledging the growing number of IPU bodies, she noted that the Executive Committee had asked the Secretary General to explore ways to synchronize the work of these bodies. She also recognized the differences in practices across geopolitical groups and supported the idea of sharing suggested agenda items in advance to promote better preparation and engagement. Finally, she commended the organizational model of the Twelve Plus Group, including its regular meetings between Assemblies and daily coordination sessions in the mornings during Assemblies, suggesting that other groups consider adopting similar practices.

2. Workshop on *Beliefs and social norms: What impact on women's health?*

The workshop was organized in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). It was moderated by Ms. L. Clifford-Lee (Ireland), who emphasized the importance of dialogue and the role of parliamentarians in addressing harmful social norms.

In a video testimony, Ms. M. Nasula from Kenya, who was married off as a child, highlighted the lack of information about, and access to, antenatal care, and underscored the trauma caused by child marriage and adolescent pregnancy. In an introductory video message, Ms. P. Allotay (WHO) discussed historical and current challenges in meeting women's needs and emphasized the importance of collective leadership and evidence-based policies in addressing related issues.

The panel discussion provided examples of how beliefs and social norms impacted girls' and women's health, with a focus on female genital mutilation (FGM), forced sterilization, access to contraception, and menopause. Mr. M.I. Ravalia (Canada) shared details of legislative action taken by his country to advance women's agency, while stressing the challenges faced by underserved communities, and by immigrant and Indigenous women. Ms. I. Modja (singer, Mali) shared her story as a victim of FGM and discussed how she was using her voice as a singer to reach out to people and speak about harmful norms and practices. She further stressed that FGM was a societal issue with no cultural justification. Ms. S. Mbaya (Menopause Solutions) spoke of the stigma surrounding menopause, which she said was institutionalized in policies and resource allocations. She called for representation and legislation on this subject, highlighting the need for budget allocations for menopause research and services.

Ms. E. Muthoni Ndiga (Center for Reproductive Rights) emphasized the work of civil society in promoting legislation to advance reproductive rights. She stressed the intersection between racism and gender inequality, calling for comprehensive sexuality education and survivor-centred health services.

Delegates from Bahrain, France, India, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands and the United Republic of Tanzania took the floor. Despite the challenges parliamentarians face in addressing social norms and beliefs related to women's health, examples were shared of progress on abortion rights, child marriage and gender equality. Other issues raised included the need to engage men, and male bias in scientific research.

In her closing remarks, Ms. E. Scolaro (WHO) highlighted the importance of parliamentary engagement in addressing global health issues. She spoke of the need for sustainable financing for global health, and of the importance of parliamentarians' involvement in decision-making processes.

3. Side event on human rights for the five Central Asian Countries

This side event, organized by the IPU in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and hosted by the Senate of Uzbekistan, aimed to harness the unique opportunity offered by the first IPU Assembly to be held in Central Asia. It brought together parliamentarians from the five parliaments in the region – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – to discuss and share experiences of their work to promote and protect human rights through their engagement with the UN human rights bodies. It was attended by six parliamentarians from five countries, as well as by Ms. S. Kiladze, a former member of the Parliament of Georgia, as a keynote speaker.

The event began with welcoming remarks by the moderator, Mr. A. Saidov, a former IPU Executive Committee member, who shared his insights on the key role played by parliaments in implementing UN human rights recommendations and interacting with UN mechanisms. Ms. Kiladze shared good practices in this field, drawing on her unique experience as both a former MP and a current Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. This was followed by brief presentations from Mr. I. Novikov on behalf of the IPU Human Rights Programme, and from Mr. O. Fisher on behalf of the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia. Subsequently, there was a discussion on how international human rights standards and recommendations could be reflected in domestic legislation, as well as in budgets, policies and other measures adopted by national parliaments.

In the interactive segment of the side event, the four parliamentarians from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan presented their past and recent achievements related to the theme at hand. Without venturing into a critical assessment of the human rights situations in their respective countries, they touched upon some of the challenges they faced, including security threats and climate change. This was followed by a presentation by a member of the Senate of Uzbekistan, who elaborated on some of the many activities conducted jointly by the Parliament of Uzbekistan, the National Center for Human Rights (a State organ dedicated to building capacity and fulfilling the functions of a national mechanism for reporting, implementation and follow-up), the IPU, OHCHR and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The importance of achieving joint milestones, such as eradicating statelessness (achieved by Kyrgyzstan in 2018 and Uzbekistan in 2024) and outlawing the death penalty, was also raised.

The participants also discussed the importance of strong interaction at the regional level in Central Asia, which they noted was slowly growing in importance as a region in its own right. Mr. Saidov in particular detailed the many outcomes of more intensive talks between governments in the region in recent years, including the resolution of decades-long border disputes, and called for the creation of an assembly of Central Asian parliaments in the near future. As a preliminary step, Mr. Saidov recommended holding more events and seminars bringing together parliamentarians from the region to discuss topics such as human rights, as well as considering holding joint hearings of parliamentary committees dedicated to these topics.

4. Workshop on Enhancing parliamentary communication and advocacy for climate action

This workshop, held on 7 April 2025 and co-organized by the IPU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aimed to strengthen parliamentary climate communication and promote effective climate advocacy. The event provided an opportunity for parliamentarians to break down communication challenges and identify opportunities to drive collective climate action. It was attended by over 40 participants from 19 countries.

The opening remarks were delivered by Mr. X. Gapporov (Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Environmental Protection of the Legislative Chamber of Uzbekistan). Mr. Gapporov highlighted recent efforts by Uzbekistan to address the climate crisis, including strategies to increase renewable energy in the country. He drew participants' attention to the recent Samarkand International Climate Forum, held in early April 2025, which had promoted greener development across Central Asia.

The interactive segment of the workshop was facilitated by Ms. K. Smith (Communications Specialist at UNDP). Ms. Smith highlighted the importance of communication skills for advancing climate action. She began by describing key trends that currently characterized the climate communications landscape, including high rates of misinformation, growing political divides, news fatigue, declining public trust in institutions, and a shifting digital media landscape.

Participants from several countries, including Bahrain, Pakistan and Seychelles, then described their national experiences with climate change, including the economic challenges posed by the climate crisis. The importance of having strong legislation to address carbon emissions was also raised.

Following these contributions, Ms. Smith outlined key principles for effective climate communication for parliamentarians, including using simple language, drawing on real-life stories, employing solutions-focused messages, and framing discussions around top priorities for constituents, such as jobs, health and safety. To illustrate these principles, three short videos were shown, from Egypt, Kenya and Tuvalu. Each video was an example of effective communication around climate-related issues and solutions. Participants acknowledged that the visual elements included in these videos made their messages more impactful.

Parliamentarians from countries including Austria, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, India and Latvia then made interventions from the floor. The lack of climate laws was highlighted as a key challenge to advancing climate action. There were calls for enhanced regional cooperation, the strengthening of networks on climate change, and increased climate finance. The role of digital media in spreading misinformation and disinformation was also highlighted, as was the urgent need for parliaments to address this subject.

5. Workshop on Tackling weapons of mass destruction: A humanitarian perspective

This workshop, held on 7 April 2025 and moderated by Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands), examined the complex threats posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and the critical role of parliamentarians in preventing their use. Speakers from the International Committee of the Red Cross, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, the World Academy of Art and Science, and INTERPOL called for stronger humanitarian and legal frameworks, practical cooperation and proactive parliamentary engagement.

The discussions addressed the growing complexity of WMD threats, from nuclear and chemical weapons to the misuse of everyday materials. Speakers emphasized the fact that parliamentarians were uniquely positioned to translate international commitments into national action, notably through the ratification of treaties, the domestication of international agreements, the allocation of budgets for emergency preparedness, oversight of government actions, and public awareness campaigns.

The workshop stressed the importance of a humanitarian perspective – alongside security considerations – in shaping policy responses, given the devastating impact of WMDs on civilians, environments and societies. Delegations from countries including India and Zambia shared details of national disarmament efforts, reinforcing the call for stronger collaboration among MPs, civil society and international organizations. Participants underscored the need for robust verification mechanisms and accountability in order to build trust, as well as for a human-centred approach to disarmament and non-proliferation. They agreed that a collaborative approach, grounded in both common security and human security principles, offered the most effective path to preventing the spread and use of WMDs.

6. Open session of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law: *The role of parliaments in tackling the effects of armed conflict on children*

On 8 April 2025, the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) held an open session debate on the theme *The role of parliaments in tackling the effects of armed conflict on children*. Panellists included Mr. F. Ahmed (Legal Adviser, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)), Ms. S. Kiladze (Vice-Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child), Ms. R. Dervišević (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Ms. G. Marufova (Uzbekistan). The session was chaired by the President of the Committee, Mr. A. Farrugia (Malta).

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, [over 473 million children](#) – more than one in six globally – are living in conflict zones. The UN verified almost 33,000 grave violations against children during armed conflict in 2024 alone. As of 2023, over 47 million children had been displaced by conflict. During an armed conflict, children risk being killed, maimed, abducted, displaced, separated from their families, sexually abused or even recruited by armed groups to participate in the hostilities. Children may also experience the effects of armed conflict long after it has ended, including trauma, physical impairments, psychological vulnerabilities caused by separation from family, educational disruption and even conflict-related stigma.

In this vein, the open session of the Committee discussed the role of parliaments in protecting children from the effects of armed conflict and in supporting them to mitigate these effects. Panellists reiterated the importance of IHL in protecting children, and stressed the imperative need for parliaments and

parliamentarians to ensure the ratification of key IHL instruments including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child also affords protection to children's rights during armed conflict and its aftermath. Participants heard about the role of parliamentarians in translating commitments into law and disseminating relevant IHL and other rules protecting children to diverse audiences. Political will in leading efforts to protect children was mentioned as being crucial, as was the exercise of effective oversight over governments' international obligations and over national budgets. Child-sensitive budgets were cited as powerful tools for progress.

Participants heard a presentation on the experience of Bosnia and Herzegovina in dealing with the long-term consequences of conflict, including psychological trauma and stigmatization, and on the country's comprehensive and strategic approaches to the process of transitional justice. The adoption of the Law on the Protection of Civilian Victims of War (2023), which recognized children born as a result of wartime rape as civilian victims of war, was cited as a good example of a legislative initiative to support children affected by conflict.

Another example of good practice raised in the session was the "Mehr" humanitarian operation in Uzbekistan, which involved the repatriation and reintegration of 531 children from conflict zones, and which also provided the children with psychological, medical and social support.

Parliamentarians from Bahrain, Chad, Ecuador, Libya, Myanmar, Poland, Rwanda, Thailand, Ukraine and Uruguay took the floor to share their experiences on the topic and to call for increased parliamentary action to support conflict-affected children. Specific challenges raised included the killing, trafficking and forced displacement of children. Natural disasters and the collapse of essential services were also highlighted as aggravating factors. Contributors to the debate also pointed out the need to put in place mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable for violence and abuse committed against children during armed conflicts, as well as the need for domestic legislation to protect children's rights and ensure accountability in both international and non-international armed conflicts. A parallel was drawn between children affected by conflict and those affected by internal violence linked to drug trafficking, which had a very similar impact on children and required urgent attention and action.

7. Panel discussion on *Harnessing religious and ethical values to advance parliamentary dialogue and peaceful coexistence*

This panel discussion was organized by the IPU, in cooperation with the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy – a permanent observer of the IPU – and the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance. The participants discussed the potential of religious and ethical values to bridge divides, build trust and uphold a social contract that reinforced the equal rights, dignity and humanity of all people. It also considered important tools for promoting peaceful coexistence, such as education and community engagement.

The discussion was moderated by Ms. S. Markiewicz (IPU Adviser on Interfaith Dialogue) and Mr. F. Daou (Executive Director of Globethics). Panellists included Mr. P.F. Casini (Italy, Honorary President of the IPU), Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia, former religious studies teacher), Mr. I. Vulpescu (Romania, President of the General Assembly of the Interparliamentary Assembly on Orthodoxy), Mr. A. Al Mannai (Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance), and Ms. Ş. Pavey (Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and former member of the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye). There were also two respondents: Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) and Mr. F. Dabba Smith (Rabbi and Co-Chair of the Brent Multi-Faith Forum). Mr. M. Omar (Senior Adviser to the IPU Secretary General) offered closing remarks.

The participants shared their views on how religious and ethical values intersected with their mandates as parliamentarians or with their work with national parliaments. They mentioned values that were shared by all people, regardless of religion or belief, such as the common good, a disavowal of violence in the name of religion, the equal dignity of all people, respect for otherness, tolerance, charity and a duty of care towards one another. The panellists discussed the tools that helped to promote peaceful coexistence, noting that religious literacy and multi-religious or ecumenical engagement helped create empathy for the other through education and encounter.

Participants heard that a unique role of parliamentarians was to be engaged with their constituents and therefore with their values. Parliamentary diplomacy and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with religious actors, were cited as providing platforms for experience-sharing, reconciliation and trust-building. This had taken place during the First Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2023, which had produced the *Marrakesh Communiqué*, a statement in which

parliamentarians encouraged their parliaments to commit to concrete actions involving religious engagement to uphold human rights, strengthen the rule of law and promote peace and inclusion. Participants noted that they looked forward to the Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, entitled *Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future*, to be held in Rome, Italy from 19 to 21 June 2025. The Conference, organized by the IPU and the Parliament of Italy, with the support of Religions for Peace, will take place within the Jubilee Year announced by Pope Francis and will also include an audience with the Pope.

Interventions from the floor were made by delegates from India, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.

8. Workshop on Reducing methane emissions: A critical pathway for addressing the climate crisis

This workshop brought together 32 parliamentarians from 16 countries, along with climate experts and participants from regional parliamentary organizations and United Nations bodies, to discuss reducing methane emissions as a critical step in addressing the climate crisis. The session emphasized that rapid reductions in emissions of methane – a potent greenhouse gas with a warming impact 86 times greater than carbon dioxide – could significantly slow global warming in the near term.

Mr. M. Chungong (IPU Secretary General) reiterated the Organization's priority focus on climate change and underscored the essential role of parliamentarians in ensuring accountability, advancing legislation and overseeing national commitments on methane. Mr. B. Ali Khanov (Uzbekistan), outlined the severe climate impacts in Central Asia, highlighted new domestic climate laws and reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Global Methane Pledge. Ms. C. Urmeneta (Global Methane Hub) called for methane targets to be included in upcoming Nationally Determined Contributions and emphasized the need for action across energy, agriculture and waste. Ms. S. Bonnard (Climate and Clean Air Coalition, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) stressed the co-benefits of reducing methane emissions, including for health and food security. Mr. K. Kosumov (International Methane Emissions Observatory, UNEP) presented the Methane Alert and Response System and the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership 2.0, and highlighted the importance of accurate emissions data. Ms. S. Radnaaragchaa (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) addressed the link between methane and air quality and called for stricter regulation of fossil fuels. Mr. C. Malley (Stockholm Environment Institute) discussed the economic and environmental gains to be derived from reducing methane emissions, highlighting examples from the palm oil sector in Ghana. Mr. T. Lotee (Kenya), detailed domestic laws and policies supporting methane mitigation in agriculture and waste.

Delegations from Bahrain, Ecuador, India, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, and Zimbabwe, among others, shared details of national strategies and legislative efforts to reduce methane emissions, including initiatives focused on biogas, improved livestock feed, waste management, clean energy transition and methane leak detection.

The session concluded with a call to action. Since methane is not just a climate issue, but also has implications for public health, agriculture and finance, parliamentarians were urged to take a leadership role by passing relevant laws, ensuring regulatory oversight and engaging in international cooperation.

The workshop marked the start of a new IPU-supported parliamentary platform to coordinate global methane action.

9. Workshop on Parliamentary diplomacy and mediation

This workshop, held on 8 April 2025 and moderated by Mr. A.R. Al Nuaimi (United Arab Emirates), brought together parliamentarians, experts, and representatives from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Globethics, the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) and the World Future Council (WFC). The main goals of the workshop were to raise awareness of parliamentary diplomacy and mediation, to assess parliamentarians' current understanding of these concepts, and to gauge their interest in further capacity-building initiatives.

The discussions focused on the role of parliamentarians as mediators, emphasizing the core mediation principles of justice, openness, fairness, empathy, humility and reconciliation. Speakers stressed that genuine dialogue, grounded in mutual respect and active listening, was key to successful peace processes. A central theme of the discussions was the fact that parliamentarians, through their direct links to citizens and civil society, were uniquely positioned to foster trust, bridge divides and promote inclusive solutions.

The importance of local ownership, adaptability, and the inclusion of women and marginalized groups in building lasting peace was underscored through two case studies: the From Arms to Farms programme in the Philippines, and a second example from Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. The relevance of mediation beyond armed conflict, particularly in addressing social and structural tensions, was also highlighted.

The workshop marked a first step for the IPU in expanding its mediation-related work, which includes the development of tailored training modules in collaboration with the GCSP, the WAAS, Globethics and the WFC. The initiative reflects a growing recognition that, in a polarized world, parliamentarians have a vital role to play in resolving conflict, fostering understanding and shaping sustainable peace.

Elections and appointments

1. Executive Committee

The Governing Council elected the following members to the Executive Committee:

Arab Group

- Ms. H.B.H. Al Sulaiti (Qatar) for a four-year term ending in March 2029

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. M.A. Sera (Indonesia), to complete the term of Mr. F. Zon (Indonesia), which will end in October 2027

2. Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee elected from among its members six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee, representing each of the geopolitical groups, as follows: Ms. N.B.K. Mutti (Zambia) for the African Group; Ms. H.B.H. Al Sulaiti (Qatar) for the Arab Group; Ms. A. Sarangi (India) for the Asia-Pacific Group; Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) for the Eurasia Group; Ms. M.d.C Alva Prieto (Peru) for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean; and Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland) for the Twelve Plus Group.

3. Vice-President of the IPU

The Executive Committee elected Ms. G. Morawska-Stanecka (Poland) as Vice-President of the IPU.

4. Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

The Forum of Women Parliamentarians elected the following regional representatives to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians:

African Group

- Ms. M.B. Mophuting (Botswana)
- Ms. M. Coulibaly Dao (Côte d'Ivoire)

Arab Group

- Ms. H.I. Nassar Naffa (Jordan)
- Ms. R. Abunayan (Saudi Arabia)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. Shambhavi (India)
- Ms. A. Naeem (Maldives)

Eurasia Group

- Ms. R. Chemeris (Russian Federation)
- Ms. I. Svyatenko (Russian Federation)

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. P. Aguirre (Ecuador)
- Ms. M.M. Ortiz (Dominican Republic)

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye)
- Ms. O. Rudenko (Ukraine)

The Forum re-elected Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) to the post of President, and elected Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) to the post of First Vice-President, and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

5. Bureau of Young Parliamentarians

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians elected the following members to its Bureau for a two-year term ending in March 2027:

African Group

- Mr. A. Abderamane Koko (Chad)
- A vacancy remains for this Group.

Arab Group

- Mr. H. Ebrahim (Bahrain)
- Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. H. Singh (India)
- Mr. S. Durrani (Pakistan)

Eurasia Group

- Ms. H. Hakobyan (Armenia)
- Mr. S. Ismayilov (Azerbaijan)

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. W. Soto Palacios (Peru)
- Ms. J. Sierra (Uruguay)

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. I. Stamatović (Serbia)
- Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom)

Ms. N. Abu Ghosh (Jordan) was elected President of the Bureau.

6. Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians

The Governing Council elected the following member for a five-year term ending in March 2030:

- Mr. F.J. Chahuán (Chile)

7. Committee on Middle East Questions

The Governing Council elected the following member for a four-year term ending in March 2029:

- Mr. J. Juwaini (Indonesia)
- A vacancy remains for this Committee

Mr. H.-J. Talsma (Netherlands) was re-elected as President.

8. Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in March 2029:

African Group

- Mr. A. Guenchouba (Algeria)

Arab Group

- Mr. M. Nader (Iraq)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. K. Sehwat (India)

Eurasia Group

- A vacancy remains for this Group

9. High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in March 2029:

African Group

- Mr. J. Okwisia Makali (Kenya)
- Ms. S. Amero (Uganda)

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. A. Malik (Pakistan)

Eurasia Group

- A vacancy remains for this Group

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- A vacancy remains for this Group

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. R. Miliute (Lithuania)

Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) was elected as Chairperson and Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France) as Vice-Chairperson. Both will serve a one-year term, with the possibility of re-election for an additional year.

10. Working Group on Science and Technology

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending March 2029:

African Group

- Mr. K. Kamel (Algeria)
- Ms. M. Kademaunga (Zimbabwe)

Arab Group

- Mr. A. Hashim Khoori (United Arab Emirates)
- A vacancy remains for this Group

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. M. Ali (Maldives)
- A vacancy remains for this Group

Eurasia Group

- A vacancy remains for this Group

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. S. Monreal Ávila (Mexico)
- Ms. S. Nane Vinçón (Uruguay)

Twelve Plus Group

- Mr. V. Blondel (Belgium)
- Mr. D. Illouz (Israel)
- Ms. I. Chassot (Switzerland)

Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) and Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) were elected as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively.

11. Committee on Health

The Governing Council elected the following members for a four-year term ending in March 2029:

- Ms. F. Ilimi (Algeria)
- Ms. V. Riotton (France)
- Mr. S. Jaiswal (India)
- Ms. L. Clifford-Lee (Ireland)
- Ms. C. Muyeka Mumma (Kenya)
- Ms. S. Avila (Mexico)
- Ms. E.T. Muteka (Namibia)

- Ms. S. Gautam (Nepal)
- Ms. J. Tielen (Netherlands)
- Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland)
- Ms. S.R. Al Mansoori (United Arab Emirates)
- Ms. O. Ataniyazova (Uzbekistan)
- Mr. S. Tshabangu (Zimbabwe)

Two vacancies remain for this Committee.

12. Bureaux of the Standing Committees

The Standing Committees elected the following members to their respective Bureaux for terms ending in March 2027:

Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

African Group

- Mr. O. Ngwu (Nigeria) for a first term

Arab Group

- A vacancy remains for this Group

Asia-Pacific Group

- Ms. F. Sauda (Maldives) for a first term
- A vacancy remains for this Group

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. L.A. Silva (Mexico) for a first term
- Mr. R. Blanco (Paraguay) for a first term

Standing Committee on Sustainable Development

African Group

- Ms. F. Mahamat Sed (Chad) for a first term
- Ms. L.P. Ngwenya (Eswatini) for a first term

Arab Group

- Mr. Y. Al-Khater (Qatar) for a first term
- Ms. M. Al Suwaidi (United Arab Emirates) for a second term

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. R. Airlangga (Indonesia) for a second term
- Ms. A. Shakya (Nepal) for a first term
- Ms. M. Arenas (Philippines) for a second term

Eurasia Group

- Mr. S. Rachkov (Belarus) for a first term

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Ms. L. Carneiro (Brazil) for a first term
- Mr. C. Rendón (Mexico) for a first term
- Mr. N. Castellano (Paraguay) for a first term

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. R. Miliute (Lithuania) for a second term
- Mr. F. Notari (Monaco) for a second term

Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

African Group

- Ms. F. Ilimi Haddouche (Algeria) for a second term
- Mr. B. Ahiafor (Ghana) for a first term

Arab Group

- Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) for a first term
- Ms. S. Al Sheibani (Oman) for a first term
- Mr. H.A. Al-Ahmar (Yemen) for a second term

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. A. Singh Thakur (India) for a first term
- Mr. F.H. Naek (Pakistan) for a second term

Eurasia Group

- Mr. A. Chepa (Russian Federation) for a first term

Group of Latin America and the Caribbean

- Mr. W. McCoy (Guyana) for a first term
- A vacancy remains for this Group

Twelve Plus Group

- Mr. C. Lohr (Switzerland) for a second term
- Ms. L. Vasylenko (Ukraine) for a second term

Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

African Group

- Mr. A. Talbi (Algeria) for a second term
- Ms. F.M.P. Konseibo Tiendrebeogo (Burkina Faso) for a first term
- Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad) for a second term

Arab Group

- Mr. A.B.I. Al-Malki (Qatar), completing the first term of Ms. H.B.H. Al Sulaiti (Qatar) and starting a second term until March 2027
- A vacancy remains for this Group

Asia-Pacific Group

- Mr. B. Suwondo (Indonesia) for a first term
- Mr. S. Shamseddin Hosseini (Iran, Islamic Republic of) for a first term
- Ms. P. Cayetano (Philippines) for a second term

Eurasia Group

- A vacancy remains for this Group

Twelve Plus Group

- Ms. S. Ataullahjan (Canada), completing the first term of Mr. D. McGuinty (Canada) and starting a second term until March 2027
- Ms. E. Winkelmeier-Becker (Germany), completing the first term of Mr. A. Larem (Germany) until October 2026
- Mr. O. Zhmerenetskyi (Ukraine), completing the first term of Ms. A. Shkrum (Ukraine) and starting a second term until March 2027

13. Rapporteurs

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, the Assembly appointed Mr. A. Al-Zu'bi (Jordan), Ms. F. Belhirsch (Netherlands) and Mr. B. Kalu (Nigeria) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *The role of parliaments in establishing robust post-conflict management mechanisms and restoring a just and lasting peace*.

On the proposal of the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, the Assembly appointed Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia), Mr. J.M.R. Edwards (Chile) and Ms. J. Sabao (Zambia) as co-Rapporteurs for the subject item *Building a fair and sustainable global economy: The role of parliaments in combating protectionism, reducing tariffs and preventing corporate tax evasion*.

Media and communications

The 150th IPU Assembly was covered extensively in the media in Uzbekistan throughout the week. It also received coverage in national outlets in numerous other countries, especially in Algeria, India, Israel and Viet Nam. This media interest was likely due to the large number of Speakers of Parliament in attendance.

The Assembly saw a significant hike in engagement on social media, especially on Instagram and LinkedIn, owing both to the high visibility of the outputs and the fact that MPs were more engaged than during previous Assemblies.

Hundreds of hard copies of IPU publications were promoted and distributed to delegates on the communications stand. These included the four major new products, all published in multiple languages: [Impact Report 2024](#), [Women in parliament: 1995–2025](#), the [Women in Politics: 2025](#) map, and [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region](#).

Media

The IPU issued four press releases before and during the Assembly.

At the time of writing, the 150th Assembly had been mentioned in some 3500 media outlets, on a par with previous Assemblies.

The Assembly saw a record 250 media representatives applying for accreditation, largely from Uzbekistan, as well as from India, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam and the United Arab Emirates.

Livestreaming and video on demand

Some 10,000 people watched the live feed of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians, the Governing Council and the Assembly. This was roughly the same level as during the last Assembly.

The provision of video extracts of plenary speeches during the General Debate was again a popular service with delegates. By the end of the Assembly, the communications team had prepared over 40 such extracts.

Social media

Throughout the 150th Assembly, the IPU posted on X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and Bluesky.

The [social media wall](#) was a particularly popular feature at this Assembly due to its prominence in the plenary hall as well as at various strategic locations around the Congress Centre. The wall included remote participation, with the hashtag #IPU150 being used not just by delegates but also by people from other locations around the world.

The communications team published 121 posts on X during the two-week period leading up to and during the Assembly, resulting in 62,000 impressions (the number of times a post appears on somebody's feed). This was lower than the equivalent figure for the 149th IPU Assembly (102,000 impressions), likely due in large part to changes at X which downgrade political content and non-paying subscribers. Top posts included a tribute to the Clerk of the National Assembly of Zambia, who tragically died in Tashkent, as well as the address by the President of Uzbekistan, and posts supporting gender equality.

Interactions on LinkedIn surged over the period, with a record post engagement rate of 20%, double the rate achieved at the last Assembly. The IPU page reached 3,500 accounts, and the posts were seen by over 7,000 people.

On Instagram, 194 posts resulted in 131,000 impressions. Total views of the daily stories were 108,000 – up from 64,000 at the 149th Assembly – thanks to increased investment in video coverage to reach an audience of younger parliamentarians. The IPU profile page was viewed 172,000 times, gaining 323 extra followers. The engagement rate was 5.5%. The top countries in terms of engagement were the United Republic of Tanzania, Indonesia, Mexico, India and Nigeria.

On Facebook, the IPU's posts reached some 15,500 accounts, with 45,000 impressions and 131 new followers. This figure was slightly lower than at the 149th Assembly but represented an increase compared to the 148th Assembly.

Gender equality campaign

At the 150th Assembly, the IPU launched a new campaign entitled [*Achieving gender equality, action by action*](#). New visuals were produced to support the campaign.

Thanks to active promotion of the campaign in the plenary hall and at the communications stand, some 45 participants have already pledged to take one or more of the recommended actions to promote gender equality.

In addition, nearly 20 parliamentarians were interviewed for the campaign and filmed committing to one or more of the actions. The interviewees came from different parts of the world (Austria, Cameroon, Ecuador, France, Kenya, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay), represented different age groups, and included some male MPs.

Photography

Eight photographers covered over 70 sessions and produced hundreds of high-quality photographs as well as providing personal service to certain MPs.

Viewing figures for the photographs on the IPU's Flickr account were in the hundreds of thousands.

Membership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union¹

Members (181)

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

Associate Members (15)

Andean Parliament, Arab Parliament, Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), European Parliament, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS), Inter-Parliamentary Committee of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), MERCOSUR Parliament (PARLASUR), Pan-African Parliament, Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Parliament of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC)*, Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and Parliamentary Assembly of La Francophonie (APF).

¹ As at the close of the 150th Assembly.

* Non-participating Members or Associate Members (all rights suspended)

** Members participating in the work of the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity

Agenda, resolutions and other texts of the 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

1. Election of the President of the 150th Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate on the theme *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*
(Standing Committee on Peace and International Security)
6. *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*
(Standing Committee on Sustainable Development)
7. Reports of the Standing Committees
8. Approval of the subject items for the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security and for the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development for the 152nd Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
9. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Tashkent Declaration

Parliamentary action for social development and justice

*Endorsed by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

We, the members of parliament participating in the 150th IPU Assembly in Tashkent, have taken stock of social development in our countries by looking at its three main components, as defined by the United Nations: poverty reduction, employment generation and social cohesion. The global social development agenda that governments adopted 30 years ago at the first World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen, has only partly come to fruition, and new challenges have emerged that threaten to erode the social fabric of our societies, setting us back on many fronts.

With a Second World Summit for Social Development set to take place in Qatar in November 2025, the time has come to place social development at the centre of our efforts as legislators and as representatives of the people. This will also help advance the lagging Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 1–5 (no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, quality education, and gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Almost everywhere in the world – to varying degrees – social bonds are weakening. An *us vs. them* mentality has taken hold in politics, the media and in communities at large, trust in government and public institutions is at a low point, and social safety nets, such as unemployment insurance and pension schemes, where they exist at all, are under increasing strain.

Billions of people are making do every day on very little. Work, when available, is often precarious or underpaid. Informal work remains prevalent. Women, youth, migrants, disabled people, older workers, Indigenous people and marginalized groups are the most vulnerable to various forms of discrimination that hold them back in society. Far too many people lack decent housing or are homeless altogether. Families are struggling because of competing priorities, poor public services such as childcare, and a lack of income support for the most vulnerable. Hunger and malnutrition, which have never truly been defeated, are trending upward again.

Income and wealth inequalities have become entrenched. The economic benefits of new technologies have accrued primarily to producers and much less to workers and consumers. In many countries, an ageing population is being left to fend for itself, without adequate support to enjoy a fulfilling life. A brave new world of social media and digital products has come into being which, while facilitating many tasks, has given rise to novel forms of social isolation and alienation.

Staying faithful to the Copenhagen vision of social development will require a policy reset to achieve a more appropriate balance between the needs of the market and the needs of the people. Social development does not spring up spontaneously but requires a deliberate effort, from the community level up to the government level, nationally as well as globally, through the multilateral system led by the United Nations. A new social contract is needed between governments and their people that aims at the realization of all human rights and that brings people together in solidarity with one another. At the heart of this new contract should be the empowerment of women, which is a key prerequisite for all aspects of social development.

While realizing that social development requires a multi-pronged approach, and a mix of policy reforms that each country needs to determine for itself, we agree on the following three broad “precepts” to guide our action going forward: invest in people, democratize the economy and strengthen institutions.

Invest in people

Social development is about people, and people are the most important resource we have to make this world a better place. Investing in people – i.e. in their education, healthcare and environment, as well as their skills, enabling them to get along as a community, to start a business, or to find a decent job – is a prerequisite for social progress. Healthcare and education in particular are essential to allow people at all stages of life, from early childhood to old age, to flourish and to live the most fulfilling life possible.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Make health coverage universal, in particular by investing more in primary care for prevention, by making care more affordable to all income groups, particularly through public systems and not-for-profit private providers, and by ensuring that the long-term care needs of disabled people and the elderly are duly considered.
- Expand education opportunities for all, through both formal and informal approaches, emphasizing lifelong education, citizenship education and critical thinking, and focusing on those most left behind, including women and girls, as well as new migrants, the unemployed and minorities.
- Invest in environmental protection, including to prevent pollution, biodiversity loss and climate-warming greenhouse gas emissions, all of which undermine human well-being.
- Make it a key priority to support forward-looking initiatives in national climate policies and facilitate the transition to renewable energy and green technologies.
- Invest more in universal social protection, such as unemployment schemes and public pensions, to lift people from poverty to prosperity and make sure no one is left behind.
- Adopt a child-sensitive approach to social protection, which is an integral part of ending violence against children in all its forms, including child labour, marriage, sexual exploitation, smuggling, and recruitment by criminal and armed groups.
- Craft social and economic policies to make housing affordable for all and a fundamental human right, including through public housing, cooperative housing and rent support for those most in need.
- Support public assets such as libraries, museums, performance centres and other such venues of intellectual life that help nurture human intelligence.
- Bridge the digital divide between rural areas and urban centres, as well as between the poor and the more affluent, expanding access to income generation opportunities and to social networks.
- Combat racism, xenophobia and intolerance, as well as violence in all its forms, which prevent people from thriving and undermine social harmony.
- Adopt a family-friendly approach in all social and economic policies, including support for parental leave, affordable childcare, and an improved work-life balance for all.

Democratize the economy

The achievement of sustained social development requires economic policies that benefit all people, building their capacities and providing for their needs so that everyone has an opportunity to succeed. Today, within nations as well as between them, economic benefits are unevenly and often unfairly distributed. Rampant inequality is not just a social ill; it is an intrinsic stumbling block to economic development, as fewer and fewer people are able to participate as producers and consumers. Fiscal and monetary policies need to be more focused on creating quality employment, including through enterprise development, and on fostering social cohesion by including all people, particularly women and youth, in the decision-making process.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Establish new indicators of economic progress that are more directly linked to human well-being, happiness and social cohesion, as a way of complementing the key indicator of gross domestic product (GDP), which disregards the social and environmental costs of economic growth.
- Fight tax evasion and improve tax collection according to the principle of progressivity, shifting the tax burden onto those who can most afford to contribute based on their income and wealth, and with particular emphasis on multinational corporations.
- Reallocate budgets towards social programmes for health and education, as well as towards public infrastructure, including by cutting fossil fuel subsidies and reducing military expenditure.
- Enact competition laws to curb monopolies and oligopolies as a way of expanding market access for smaller producers and of preventing price gouging.

- Regulate the financial sector to curb harmful speculation, protect consumers and redirect assets towards more value-added production.
- Promote small and medium-sized enterprises, which are less prone to delocalization, particularly by facilitating access to credit and to professional skills development.
- Support the social and solidarity economy of cooperatives, social enterprises and mutual aid societies, which help strengthen social bonds and promote shared interests among entrepreneurs, workers and consumers.
- Uphold workers' rights in accordance with international conventions, particularly by protecting the right of collective bargaining, by outlawing all forms of child labour and forced labour, as well as the exploitation of migrant workers.
- Close the gender pay gap and strengthen social protections for care work, which is mostly carried out by women, and eliminate discrimination in employment against women and minority groups.
- Enact laws that give women the right to own land, inherit property or borrow money, and that ensure women's equal right to work.
- Support social dialogue among workers, producers and consumers, and expand their role in economic decision-making, from corporate boards to national regulatory bodies.
- Institute income support schemes to help workers displaced by large-scale technological innovation, including artificial intelligence.
- Support the transition from informal to formal work arrangements that are subject to taxation and provide for social benefits such as unemployment insurance, healthcare and old-age pensions.

Strengthen institutions

Institutions are the glue that keeps societies and indeed the whole global community together. They include not just government institutions, including parliaments, at national, subnational and municipal levels, but also regulatory bodies, public administrations and media institutions that cater to the needs of the people in multiple ways. At the global level, multilateral organizations such as the international financial institutions, the International Labour Organization, and the United Nations system as a whole are needed to support an enabling environment for social development in all countries. The less people trust the institutions that are supposed to guide and protect them, the more likely they are to revert to their own devices in isolation from each other, which undermines social cohesion and makes broad-based economic reforms harder to achieve.

We, therefore, pledge to work to:

- Strengthen the legislative and accountability role of our own parliaments as a necessary condition for governance reforms across the board.
- Increase the representation of women and youth in parliaments and all other major decision-making bodies, commensurate with their numbers in society.
- Actively include women and young people in the work and leadership of national parliaments and the IPU.
- Institute rules and processes to make all public institutions more open to outside input from citizens, consumers, workers and producers, as well as from civil society at large.
- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions, particularly public administrations, to provide quality services for all.
- Allow easy access to declassified government information for people, advocacy groups and communities, to protect their rights as well as to hold governments accountable.
- Fight corruption at all levels within politics, public administrations and the private sector.
- Limit the influence of interest groups in election finance and take steps to prevent electoral fraud.
- Ensure a more open and transparent budget process in which citizens and groups can participate, and promote citizens' budgets as a tool of public engagement to ensure public trust.
- Institute gender-responsive budgeting at all levels of government, from national to local.
- Encourage the participation of citizens, consumers, producers and workers in regulatory bodies for digital technologies and artificial intelligence, as a way of minimizing the social risks of such technologies.
- Ensure the ethical use of artificial intelligence and develop innovative legal frameworks to effectively regulate this rapidly evolving domain.
- Create an enabling environment for media organizations and cultural institutions to help strengthen people's capacities to think critically about the information they receive in the public domain, which will help reduce the social impacts of misinformation and disinformation.

- Strengthen the judiciary so that it can be counted on to deliver justice impartially and in a timely manner, upholding the rule of law.
- Strengthen and reform the international financial architecture to free up resources for developing countries' social expenditure, including through debt relief and more effective aid.
- Support reforms of the multilateral system to enable it to carry forward the new agenda for social development alongside other global commitments for peace and development.

In politics, as in most things in life, change requires time – and a long-term vision, which we believe this Declaration provides. We urge all parliaments and parliamentarians to take ownership of this vision and to begin the process of change by developing national plans that are open to the contribution of all. In preparation for the Second World Summit for Social Development, we commit to holding debates in our parliaments and to engaging with our respective government negotiators at the United Nations.

We are thankful to the Parliament of Uzbekistan for bringing us together for this important debate and are inspired by the country's progress on social development and democratic reform in recent years. Let us work together towards a strong new global agreement on social development that is fit for the times and that will secure justice and peace for people everywhere.

The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council on the Middle East conflict, including resolutions [242](#) (1967), [338](#) (1973), [1397](#) (2002), [1515](#) (2003) and [2334](#) (2016), which established the principles for the resolution of this conflict, in particular the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by force, as well as those of the United Nations General Assembly, including resolutions [181 \(II\)](#) (1947), [194 \(III\)](#) (1948), [58/292](#) (2004), [67/19](#) (2012), [73/18](#) (2018), and the most recent resolution [79/81](#) (2024) on *Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine*, which expressed unwavering support, in accordance with international law, for a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the 1967 borders, with both States living side by side in peace and security,

Recalling also the IPU's numerous resolutions and statements since 1988 on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which have consistently emphasized the need for a peaceful resolution based on international law and mutual recognition, reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, opposed illegal settlements, condemned all acts of terrorism and violent attacks, and called for urgent humanitarian action, while supporting international efforts to achieve a two-State solution,

Acknowledging the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its devastating human toll, including population displacement, loss of life and regional instability, and its significant intensification since 7 October 2023, which has resulted in a substantial number of deaths, the taking of hostages and escalating violence, leading to a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, exacerbated by dire living conditions and restricted access to essential resources,

Firmly believing that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict extends beyond being a regional issue, and that its repercussions are being felt globally, including through the export of tensions to other parts of the world, fuelling divisions within communities, influencing international relations, weakening international law, including international humanitarian law, and impacting global peace and security, while complicating efforts towards multilateral cooperation,

Expressing deep concern over the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories and the expansion of Israeli settlements in violation of international law and the prohibition of territorial acquisition by force, in contradiction to the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and statehood based on the 1967 borders within the framework of a two-State solution, as well as the critical role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in upholding international legal norms and providing advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities,

Deeply concerned by the grave violations of the fundamental rights, dignity and safety of civilians – with children, women and girls, and people with disabilities bearing a particular burden as the most vulnerable members of affected communities – as the ongoing conflict continues to cause population displacement, destroy livelihoods, restrict humanitarian access and exacerbate inequalities, leaving lasting physical, psychological and socioeconomic impacts on individuals, families and entire communities,

Recognizing that acts of violence, terrorism against civilians and the use of starvation as a method of warfare constitute serious breaches of international humanitarian law and that State actions must fully comply with human rights obligations and the rule of law,

Deeply convinced that a two-State solution is the only viable path to break the cycle of violence and ensure security, prosperity and equal rights for the peoples of Israel and Palestine, in line with international law and the principles of self-determination and territorial integrity, and that key steps

towards this goal include: an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the release of hostages and political prisoners; the universal recognition of Palestinian and Israeli statehood; and the cessation of illegal settlement activities, as peace cannot be achieved through force or occupation,

Highlighting the unique role of parliaments, including regional parliamentary bodies, in advancing dialogue, diplomacy and peacebuilding to support a two-State solution, while making use of their core functions to uphold international law, ensure government accountability, facilitate inclusive debate and consensus-building, promote human rights, protect vulnerable groups, allocate funds for humanitarian aid and reconstruction, and foster international cooperation and parliamentary diplomacy to encourage the peaceful resolution of the conflict,

1. *Calls on* parliaments to urge their governments to advocate for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, leading in particular to the lifting of the blockade to enable the free movement of people and goods, facilitated access to humanitarian aid and the release of hostages and political prisoners, in view of ending the war, which has left only death and destruction in its wake;
2. *Calls on* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to promote human dignity and safeguard fundamental rights by taking all actions necessary to protect civilians, particularly children, women, people with disabilities and the elderly, ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access and supporting the safe delivery of essential supplies; and in this regard:
 - a. *Reaffirms* its support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) as a vital provider of humanitarian aid, education and healthcare services to Palestinians;
 - b. *Urges* the Parliament of Israel to: review its decision to ban UNRWA's operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT); and to support the implementation of education for peace initiatives;
 - c. *Requests* that parliaments provide financial support to UNRWA and other humanitarian organizations working in Gaza and the OPT more broadly to alleviate suffering and support recovery efforts;
3. *Strongly encourages* parliaments to enhance oversight of their governments' foreign policy actions to ensure compliance with international law, including the implementation of transparent arms export control measures, the monitoring of transfers of arms and military equipment to countries in conflict, and the protection of human rights;
4. *Advises* parliaments to monitor and promote respect for the ICJ's advisory opinions on the legal implications of occupation and settlement activities;
5. *Urges* parliaments to use their legislative powers to enact or amend laws in order to reinforce support for a two-State solution, ensuring the recognition of both Israel and Palestine as independent sovereign States;
6. *Appeals* to parliaments to advocate for their governments to support the recognition of Palestinian statehood, including the accession of Palestine as a full Member of the United Nations, as a key step towards a two-State solution, and to back the implementation of a comprehensive peace process, led by the United Nations, aimed at achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace;
7. *Expresses its hope for* strengthened parliamentary diplomacy aimed at facilitating dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian representatives, supporting a two-State solution and fostering peaceful coexistence between the Israeli and Palestinian peoples, through direct engagement with inter-parliamentary institutions and networks, multilateral parliamentary forums and relevant United Nations agencies;
8. *Strongly encourages* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to engage in indirect parliamentary diplomacy, facilitated by neutral third parties such as the IPU, promoting dialogue and cooperation on shared issues of concern, including security, health, education, humanitarian access, economic development and environmental protection;
9. *Invites* parliaments to provide financial and technical support for electoral processes and their follow-up in due time in Palestine to allow for the holding of regular, free, fair and transparent elections, and to promote democracy, good governance, peace and security;

10. *Urges* parliaments to participate in, and the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, monitoring of the political situation and electoral processes in both Israel and Palestine, including through the deployment of election observation missions;
11. *Calls on* parliaments and regional parliamentary bodies to provide, and on the IPU to facilitate and coordinate, technical assistance, including legislative capacity-building support, to the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, with the aim of strengthening their core parliamentary functions in support of peace, democracy and a two-State solution, including the promotion of State-building and the rule of law, legislative reform, oversight of government actions, citizens' engagement, and effective participation in international peacebuilding processes;
12. *Invites* regional parliamentary bodies to leverage their unique position to share good practices encouraging cross-border cooperation and joint actions on economic development, to discuss shared challenges such as water management and environmental protection, and to support parliamentary diplomacy and foster peace in the Middle East region;
13. *Encourages* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt and implement gender-responsive legislation and policies that protect the rights and dignity of women and girls, prevent gender-based violence, and promote the role of women as peacebuilders;
14. *Urges* parliaments to promote, in the Middle East region, the creation of initiatives that support peace education, youth empowerment, non-violence programmes aimed at fostering a culture of peace and coexistence, mutual understanding including through interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and the prevention of violent extremism, while prioritizing the principles of the United Nations Women, Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security agendas;
15. *Also urges* parliaments to promote a common security approach in the pursuit of a two-State solution, recognizing that the security of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples is interdependent, and to take measures that build mutual trust, ensure the protection of civilians, and prevent actions that exacerbate tensions;
16. *Calls on* the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine to adopt a human security approach in their day-to-day work, prioritizing the protection and well-being of individuals and communities on both sides and addressing the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, population displacement and inequality, in support of peace, stability, dignity and the realization of a sustainable two-State solution;
17. *Recommends* that the IPU transform its Committee on Middle East Questions into a Strategic Task Force on the Middle East, composed of equal numbers of representatives from all IPU geopolitical groups, with a mandate to support dialogue and facilitate indirect parliamentary diplomacy between the Parliaments of Israel and Palestine, and to monitor and report on commitments related to humanitarian access, the protection of vulnerable groups, and peace education, as well as on steps taken towards the achievement of a two-State solution, taking into account the global impact of the conflict.

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- *- **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** expressed its opposition to the entire text of the resolution.
 - **Germany, Hungary and Switzerland** expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution.
 - **Austria** expressed reservations on the use of the terms “use of starvation as a method of warfare” in preambular paragraph 8 and “political prisoners” in preambular paragraph 9 and operative paragraph 1.

Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The 150th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the IPU's long-held position, expressed through many previous resolutions, that there cannot be peace without sustainable development and that there cannot be sustainable development without peace, and *underlining* the IPU's prominent role in condemning acts of aggression and human rights violations in recent years,

Concerned that conflicts, particularly armed conflicts, hinder progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), profoundly disrupt the environment, economic growth and the lives of millions globally, and have devastating effects on communities, and especially on women, children, and marginalized or vulnerable groups,

Concerned also about the complex interactions between, and the potential mutual reinforcement of, conflict, poverty, environmental degradation and injustice, and about the long-term effects of conflicts on civilian populations, communities, livelihoods, the environment and economies, which can extend across decades and even generations,

Noting that such long-term effects include poverty, hunger, forced displacement, environmental damage, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure – such as hospitals, schools, energy facilities, ports and dams – that enables the delivery of healthcare, education, energy, security and other essential services,

Recognizing that the destruction of ecosystems during armed conflicts has severe and long-term consequences for human security, biodiversity, climate stability and sustainable development, and that there is currently no international legal framework to hold aggressors accountable for such destruction, including for indirect environmental degradation resulting from the use of military force,

Recalling the urgent need for comprehensive and robust strategies to address conflicts and to protect sustainable development during such conflicts,

Emphasizing the important role played by parliaments in: addressing conflicts; mitigating their negative effects on sustainable development; promoting peace and stability through inclusive governance; strengthening the rule of law and good governance; fostering economic development; ensuring gender equality and human rights protections, particularly for women, children, and marginalized and vulnerable groups; and promoting inclusive decision-making processes,

Emphasizing also that IPU Assemblies – as places for parliamentarians, policymakers and strategists from around the world to come together to discuss the most pressing topics in the political sphere, and to engage in strategic capacity-building and regional cooperation on matters including peace and international security, risk management, and sustainable development – serve as vital platforms for international rapprochement and inclusivity, and as effective forums for mitigating and reducing conflicts through multilateralism and respect for the international rules-based order,

Highlighting the importance of multilateral partnerships, and of strong and impactful alliances, between parliaments globally in light of the conflicts and challenges the world is witnessing, all of which require more effective actions in order to provide a safe and prosperous environment for the benefit of countries, peoples and the future of the world as a whole,

Stressing that the achievement of the collective interests of all nations, and of progress on our shared commitment to sustainable development, peace and security, is dependent upon comprehensive support for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and upon the mitigation of tensions through: stronger compliance with international humanitarian law, including the right of prisoners of war to humane treatment; adherence to the principles of State sovereignty while upholding

human rights and other international legal obligations; efforts to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and coexistence; renewed multilateral cooperation frameworks; and the development of new sustainable and resilient energy security policies,

Recognizing that the disappearance of persons has a profound impact on their families and societies, and that it hinders development, community cohesion and peacebuilding, and *recalling* the IPU resolution *Missing persons*, adopted at the 115th IPU Assembly,

Reaffirming the critical role of parliamentary diplomacy in supporting all efforts aimed at addressing conflicts, including by urging parties to such conflicts to engage in dialogue and seek peaceful solutions,

Underlining the importance of parliamentary collaboration with international and regional organizations, especially the United Nations, in order to strengthen global efforts aimed at achieving peace and mutual understanding, and *emphasizing* that reform of the global governance system, including of the United Nations, is essential to ensure that international organizations are effective and representative, and that the right to veto is not abused by States acting in violation of international law,

Stressing the need to: protect civilian infrastructure in conflicts, allowing humanitarian efforts to be delivered in line with humanitarian and environmental principles, and in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law; ensure respect for, and the protection of, all civilians and humanitarian personnel in armed conflicts, again in accordance with the provisions of international humanitarian law and as notably reiterated by UN Security Council resolution [2730](#) (2024); and ensure that services such as healthcare, education, food, water and energy remain accessible and uninterrupted during conflict,

Affirming the need for cooperation with development partners in order to ensure the continuity of humanitarian services in areas affected by conflicts, and for rapid response to the needs of populations in conflict situations, including consideration of strategies for reconstruction and emergency preparedness, and *emphasizing* the importance of removing any obstacles, including those of a political, bureaucratic or logistical nature, that hinder the timely provision of aid,

Affirming also that the achievement of security is not limited to conflict prevention but also requires the building of sustainable, equitable, inclusive and safe societies, which in turn contributes to the long-term stability and sustainable development of countries, in line with the objectives of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the essential role of parliaments, where they exist, in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and in providing access to justice for all,

Recognizing also that parliaments play a crucial role in developing and strengthening accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels, including in the security and justice sector, and in fostering the equitable representation of underrepresented groups in decision-making processes,

Recalling UN Security Council resolution [2553](#) (2020), which stresses the importance of reforming the security sector in post-conflict environments in order to prevent countries from relapsing into conflict, and which further stresses that a professional, effective and accountable security sector, and accessible and impartial law-enforcement and justice sectors, are equally necessary in laying the foundations for peace and sustainable development, and *emphasizing* the need for parliaments to support the implementation of international arms control treaties such as the Arms Trade Treaty, which aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including in the commission of terrorist acts,

Recalling also the Pact for the Future (UN General Assembly resolution [79/1](#), 2024), which called on States to redouble efforts to significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,

Reaffirming the importance of promoting the full integration of a gender perspective in peace and security initiatives, including through the implementation of UN Security Council resolution [1325](#) (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, as well as subsequent resolutions on the matter, by strengthening the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution,

Conscious that, through their security sector oversight role, parliaments can play a crucial role in preventing the onset or recurrence of conflicts, thus mitigating their impact on sustainable development,

Stressing the need to reform the United Nations Security Council to ensure wider representation and fairness in international decision-making, and *believing* that a balance in the membership of, and powers within, the United Nations Security Council is necessary to strengthen its role in achieving peace and international security,

1. *Affirms* that the implementation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as a basis for peace and sustainable development, contributes to reducing conflicts, to mitigating the humanitarian impact of such conflicts, and to improving the political environment;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to promote democracy, the rule of law, human rights and environmental rights as fundamental principles and as a basis for strengthening peace and stability, and *emphasizes* the importance of climate and environmental justice and sustainability, ensuring the participation of all segments of society, including women, youth and marginalized or vulnerable groups, in political, social and environmental decision-making processes;
3. *Calls upon* parliaments to intensify their efforts to promote dialogue, reconciliation, understanding and peaceful dispute resolution between conflicting parties, and to work towards comprehensive and sustainable solutions to ongoing conflicts, with the meaningful participation of all affected stakeholders;
4. *Also calls upon* parliaments to support humanitarian and development efforts to meet the needs of populations affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises, and to promote economic, environmental and social stability in affected areas, including the provision of basic services such as education, healthcare, food, water, electricity and sanitation;
5. *Insists on* the importance of parliamentarians' oversight, budgetary and legislative roles in pursuing sustainable development, in monitoring government policies and programmes related to security, peace and development, and in ensuring the fair representation of citizens, with particular attention paid to marginalized groups, while promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making;
6. *Urges* parliaments to exercise their oversight role in order to ensure the effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance aimed at stemming reversals in the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts and humanitarian crises;
7. *Calls for* enhanced cooperation between national parliaments, regional and international organizations, and civil society organizations in promoting joint efforts to strengthen support strategies for communities affected by conflicts;
8. *Also calls for* the strengthening of partnerships between the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and civil society in order to ensure the achievement of the SDGs in areas affected by conflicts;
9. *Calls upon* parliaments to consider the intersection of political, economic, social and environmental dimensions, including climate resilience measures and sustainable resource management, when developing strategies to mitigate the impact of conflicts on sustainable development;
10. *Insists on* the importance of encouraging and promoting dialogue and coexistence between parties to conflicts based on the principles of international law, including respect for internationally recognized borders, as a means of working towards peaceful and constructive dispute resolution;
11. *Also insists on* the importance of restoring sustainable development in post-conflict environments based on scientific data and evidence;

12. *Further insists on* the importance of strengthening education systems in order to spread awareness of the values of peace, tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution, and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence in society;
13. *Stresses* the need to foster a culture and awareness of human rights, sustainable development and environmental considerations in societies affected by conflicts, and on the need to ensure that such rights and considerations are part of any peacebuilding or sustainable development process;
14. *Calls upon* parliaments to support the development of legal frameworks addressing environmental harm in armed conflicts, including the establishment of ecocide as an international crime to ensure individual accountability, and *encourages* continued efforts to refine legal definitions and accountability mechanisms, both nationally and internationally, covering both individual liability and State responsibility;
15. *Also calls upon* parliaments to promote legal measures that ensure accountability for environmental harm directly resulting from the crime of aggression, recognizing that such damage would not have occurred but for the initiation of hostilities, and addressing both immediate and long-term environmental destruction, including forms of slow violence, within post-conflict justice frameworks;
16. *Welcomes* advanced parliamentary practices that play an important role in promoting dialogue and understanding, and in achieving peace, in communities affected by conflicts;
17. *Calls upon* parliaments to strengthen coordination with humanitarian and development organizations, to ensure that States grant international humanitarian organizations unhindered access to occupied territories, and to agree on clear safeguards to protect water, energy and crops, which are essential for human development and for the welfare and food security of nations of the world, as well as other humanitarian and civilian infrastructure in areas affected by conflicts, in line with international humanitarian law;
18. *Insists* that climate change and security are inseparable elements in achieving sustainable development and ensuring lasting peace, and *calls for* the development of integrated strategies to reduce the effects of climate change on areas affected by conflicts;
19. *Calls for* the implementation of comprehensive strategies to promote peace and stability on the basis of national reconciliation, and for the promotion of inclusive governance approaches that prevent marginalization, and foster social and political harmony, in the aftermath of conflicts;
20. *Encourages* parliaments to play a key role in preventing disappearances, in clarifying the fate of missing persons and in assisting their families, in particular by adopting domestic legislation on missing persons, by establishing adequate mechanisms to prevent, resolve and address disappearances, and by strengthening cooperation, both nationally and internationally;
21. *Insists on* the importance of incorporating humanitarian exemptions into sanctions regimes, in line with the precedent set by UN Security Council resolution [2664](#) (2022), as an important means of ensuring that humanitarian action is not impeded by the unintended impact of sanctions, as well as on the importance of ensuring that mechanisms are in place to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of such exemptions, thus helping to ensure continuity of access to essential services for the civilian population and to stem reversals in the achievement of the SDGs, and *emphasizes* the need for full compliance with sanctions regimes imposed on States for violations of international law in order to bring conflicts to an end and to minimize their impact on sustainable development;
22. *Calls for* the strengthening of an existing global commission, such as the United Nations Mediation Support Unit, which comprises relevant experts, with a mandate to work towards a ceasefire, based on international law and leading to lasting and just peace, in countries affected by conflicts, and to ensure the implementation of the SDGs in conflict-affected areas, with a focus on addressing the root causes of such conflicts and developing innovative mediation approaches;

23. *Recommends* the establishment of an international compensation mechanism, ensuring that aggressors bear financial responsibility for ecological restoration in conflict-affected areas, *stresses* that this does not absolve the international community of its responsibility to engage in reconstruction efforts, and *calls for* the integration of environmental peacebuilding and transitional justice principles into all post-conflict recovery frameworks to ensure sustainable and just rehabilitation processes;
24. *Encourages* parliaments to periodically review national legislation to ensure its compatibility with the urgent and other needs of communities affected by conflicts, and to focus in particular on updating legislation that protects human rights and the environment in such situations;
25. *Calls for* the strengthening of partnerships between national parliaments and international and regional organizations with a view to exploring innovative solutions to restore sustainable development in countries affected by conflicts, while ensuring that civilian infrastructure is rebuilt in such a manner that it is resilient and better suited to both pre-existing and post-conflict challenges;
26. *Also calls for* the funding of post-war reconstruction through, *inter alia*, compensation provided by States whose unlawful actions have caused destruction, and *calls upon* the international community to consider alternative ways to ensure appropriate compensation should such States refuse to fulfil their obligation to provide compensation, including by redirecting the assets of such States for recovery purposes;
27. *Further calls for* parliaments to play a stronger role in the inclusive and equitable distribution of resources in areas affected by conflicts, in supporting reconstruction programmes in line with the principle of environmental and social sustainability, and in ensuring that marginalized or vulnerable groups benefit from such programmes and are not left behind;
28. *Calls for* the rapid restoration, in an inclusive and equitable manner, of essential services during early recovery and reconstruction following conflicts, while building back better and providing more resilient essential services to the civilian population, in line with UN Security Council resolution [2573](#) (2021);
29. *Encourages* parliaments to develop a sound legal framework for democratic oversight of the security sector, and to ensure that such a framework is compatible with international laws, norms and standards, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
30. *Calls upon* parliaments to exercise their budgetary function, with transparency and accountability, to challenge, question, cancel or adjust the resources allocated to security, and to demand that the security sector meet high standards of accountability and effectiveness in accordance with domestic laws and regulations;
31. *Also calls upon* parliaments to exercise their oversight function to verify whether security-related laws and policies are being implemented effectively and are having the intended effect, and whether resources allocated to the security sector are being used efficiently;
32. *Recommends* that parliaments exercise their representative function to facilitate political consensus on security issues through dialogue and transparency, and to ensure that all citizens, including marginalized and vulnerable groups, are always represented in the best possible way in the decision-making process.

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- * - **India** expressed a reservation on operative paragraph 18.
 - **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 2, 10 and 21, and on operative paragraph 21.
 - The **Russian Federation** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 13 and 20, and on operative paragraphs 14, 21 and 26.

Advancing global economic cooperation: Reducing tariffs and combating protectionism

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Chile and Peru for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes.....	482	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	942
Negative votes	460	Two-thirds majority.....	628
Abstentions	255		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		12	
Algeria		16		Germany	19			Paraguay			12
Andorra	10			Ghana		Absent		Peru	15		
Angola		15		Greece		Absent		Philippines			10
Armenia			11	Guyana		Absent		Poland		15	
Australia	14			Hungary		12		Portugal	10		
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Qatar		11	
Azerbaijan		Absent		India		Absent		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahamas		Absent		Indonesia			22	Romania	13		
Bahrain		11		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Russian Federation		20	
Belarus		12		Iraq		16		Rwanda		Absent	
Belgium	13			Ireland	12			San Marino		Absent	
Bhutan			10	Israel			12	Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Italy	17			Saudi Arabia		15	
Botswana	11			Japan	20			Senegal		Absent	
Brazil	20			Jordan		13		Serbia		Absent	
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Seychelles		10	
Burkina Faso		14		Kenya		Absent		Slovenia	11		
Burundi			10	Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Somalia		13	
Cambodia			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		South Africa		18	
Cameroon		Absent		Latvia	11			South Sudan		Absent	
Canada	15			Libya		Absent		Spain	10		
Chad			13	Lithuania	6		5	Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	13			Luxembourg	10			Sweden			13
China	23			Malawi	5	9		Switzerland	12		
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Malaysia	15			Tajikistan		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Maldives		10		Thailand	18		
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Timor-Leste			11
Czechia	13			Mauritania		Absent		Türkiye		19	
DPR of Korea		Absent		Mexico			20	Turkmenistan		Absent	
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	10			Uganda		Absent	
Denmark		12		Mongolia		Absent		Ukraine			15
Djibouti		11		Montenegro		Absent		United Arab Emirates	13		
Dominican Rep.		Absent		Morocco		15		United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador		Absent		Mozambique		10		United Republic of Tanzania		18	
Egypt		20		Namibia		11		Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	8		3	Nepal		Absent		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Estonia	6	5		Netherlands	8	5		Viet Nam		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand	12			Zambia		14	
Ethiopia		Absent		Nigeria			22	Zimbabwe		13	
Fiji	10			Norway			12				
Finland		12		Oman		12					
France	18			Pakistan		22					
Gambia (The)		Absent									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

Parliamentary diplomacy to promote peace and address the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Philippines and Thailand for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes	630	Total of affirmative and negative votes ..	988
Negative votes	358	Two-thirds majority	659
Abstentions	209		

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine		12	
Algeria		16		Germany	19			Paraguay			12
Andorra	10			Ghana		Absent		Peru	15		
Angola		15		Greece		Absent		Philippines	10		
Armenia	11			Guyana		Absent		Poland	15		
Australia	14			Hungary	12			Portugal	10		
Austria	12			Iceland	10			Qatar		11	
Azerbaijan		Absent		India		Absent		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahamas		Absent		Indonesia			22	Romania	13		
Bahrain		11		Iran (Islamic Republic of)		19		Russian Federation			20
Belarus		12		Iraq		16		Rwanda		Absent	
Belgium	13			Ireland	12			San Marino		Absent	
Bhutan	5		5	Israel	12			Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Italy	17			Saudi Arabia		15	
Botswana			11	Japan	20			Senegal		Absent	
Brazil			20	Jordan		13		Serbia		Absent	
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Seychelles		10	
Burkina Faso		14		Kenya		Absent		Slovenia	11		
Burundi			10	Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Somalia		13	
Cambodia	13			Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		South Africa		18	
Cameroon		Absent		Latvia	11			South Sudan		Absent	
Canada	15			Libya		Absent		Spain	10		
Chad			13	Lithuania	11			Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	6	6	1	Luxembourg	10			Sweden	13		
China	15	3	5	Malawi	5	9		Switzerland	12		
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Malaysia	15			Tajikistan		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Maldives		10		Thailand	18		
Cyprus	11			Malta	10			Timor-Leste	11		
Czechia	13			Mauritania		Absent		Türkiye			19
DPR of Korea		Absent		Mexico	20			Turkmenistan		Absent	
DR of the Congo			20	Monaco	10			Uganda		Absent	
Denmark	12			Mongolia		Absent		Ukraine	15		
Djibouti		11		Montenegro		Absent		United Arab Emirates			13
Dominican Rep.		Absent		Morocco		15		United Kingdom	18		
Ecuador		Absent		Mozambique		10		United Republic of Tanzania		18	
Egypt		20		Namibia			11	Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	5		6	Nepal		Absent		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Estonia	11			Netherlands	13			Viet Nam		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand	12			Zambia		14	
Ethiopia		Absent		Nigeria	22			Zimbabwe		13	
Fiji	10			Norway	12						
Finland	12			Oman		12					
France	18			Pakistan		22					
Gambia (The)		Absent									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

The need for urgent action on the recent violation of the ceasefire agreement by Israel in Palestine, the escalating conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan, and the compounding effects of global warming

Results of roll-call vote on the request of the delegations of Seychelles, Zimbabwe, Jordan and Egypt with the support of the Arab Group and the African Group for the inclusion of an emergency item

Results

Affirmative votes..... 584 Total of affirmative and negative votes ..977
 Negative votes 393 Two-thirds majority.....651
 Abstentions 220

Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.	Country	Yes	No	Abst.
Albania		Absent		Georgia		Absent		Palestine	12		
Algeria	16			Germany		19		Paraguay		12	
Andorra		5	5	Ghana		Absent		Peru	15		
Angola	15			Greece		Absent		Philippines			10
Armenia	7		4	Guyana		Absent		Poland		15	
Australia		14		Hungary		8	4	Portugal		10	
Austria		12		Iceland	5		5	Qatar	11		
Azerbaijan		Absent		India		Absent		Republic of Korea		Absent	
Bahamas		Absent		Indonesia	22			Romania		13	
Bahrain	11			Iran (Islamic Republic of)	19			Russian Federation	20		
Belarus	12			Iraq	16			Rwanda		Absent	
Belgium		13		Ireland	6		6	San Marino		Absent	
Bhutan	5		5	Israel		12		Sao Tome and Principe			10
Bosnia and Herzegovina		Absent		Italy		17		Saudi Arabia	15		
Botswana	11			Japan			20	Senegal		Absent	
Brazil			20	Jordan	13			Serbia		Absent	
Bulgaria		Absent		Kazakhstan		Absent		Seychelles	10		
Burkina Faso	14			Kenya		Absent		Slovenia		11	
Burundi			10	Kyrgyzstan		Absent		Somalia	13		
Cambodia			13	Lao People's Dem. Republic		Absent		South Africa	18		
Cameroon		Absent		Latvia		11		South Sudan		Absent	
Canada		15		Libya		Absent		Spain		10	
Chad			13	Lithuania		11		Sri Lanka		Absent	
Chile	6	6	1	Luxembourg		10		Sweden		13	
China	20		3	Malawi	14			Switzerland		12	
Côte d'Ivoire		Absent		Malaysia	15			Tajikistan		Absent	
Croatia		Absent		Maldives	10			Thailand	18		
Cyprus			11	Malta	6		4	Timor-Leste			11
Czechia		13		Mauritania		Absent		Türkiye	19		
DPR of Korea		Absent		Mexico			20	Turkmenistan		Absent	
DR of the Congo	20			Monaco		10		Uganda		Absent	
Denmark		12		Mongolia		Absent		Ukraine			15
Djibouti	11			Montenegro		Absent		United Arab Emirates	13		
Dominican Rep.		Absent		Morocco	15			United Kingdom		18	
Ecuador		Absent		Mozambique	10			United Republic of Tanzania	18		
Egypt	20			Namibia	11			Uruguay			11
Equatorial Guinea	11			Nepal		Absent		Uzbekistan		Absent	
Estonia		11		Netherlands		13		Viet Nam		Absent	
Eswatini		Absent		New Zealand		12		Zambia	14		
Ethiopia		Absent		Nigeria		22		Zimbabwe	13		
Fiji			10	Norway		12					
Finland		12		Oman	12						
France		9	9	Pakistan	22						
Gambia (The)		Absent									

N.B. This list does not include delegations present at the session which were not entitled to vote pursuant to the provisions of Articles 5.2 and 5.3 of the Statutes. Parliaments participating in the IPU in a non-voting observer capacity in accordance with the decision of the 209th session of the Governing Council in Nusa Dua do not appear on this list.

Report of the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights

*Noted by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 7 and 8 April 2025.

Illegal international adoption

At its first sitting, held on 7 April 2025 with President Ms. D. O'Neill (Australia) in the chair, the Committee held a debate on its next resolution, *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. Two of the co-Rapporteurs were present: Mr. M. De Maegd (Belgium) and Mr. S. Patra (India). The third Rapporteur, Ms. L. Crexell (Argentina), was not present as she had been unable to attend the Assembly.

The debate was followed by a discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*.

In his opening remarks, Mr. O. de Frouville (Paris-Panthéon-Assas University; United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances) provided a comprehensive overview of the human rights dimensions of illegal international adoptions, highlighting international legal frameworks such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Convention, and calling for States to recognize victims, provide reparations and prevent future illegal adoptions. Mr. G. Ijumba (United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF) emphasized the importance of preventing unnecessary family separation and prioritizing children's best interests through a continuum of care that included kinship care, foster care, and adoption only as a last resort.

Ms. C. Fanon (*Racines Perdues*) shared her personal story as a victim of illegal international adoption. She had been born in Guatemala in 1986 and had been separated from her mother two days after birth. She had been brought to Belgium with a false passport and had been officially registered as deceased in Guatemala. In 2017, she had found her biological family and discovered that there were hundreds of similar cases in Belgium and thousands worldwide. Ms. Fanon advocated for recognizing victims' rights to identity, nationality and family links, and urged parliamentarians to listen to victims with their hearts, not just their heads.

Mr. De Maegd, co-Rapporteur, emphasized the need to recognize illegal international adoptions as violations of human rights. He called for comprehensive measures including opening archives, providing psychological support, and creating legal mechanisms to help victims find their true identities and origins.

A total of 28 delegates participated in the debate, which emphasized the need for stronger legal frameworks and international cooperation. Specific country examples illustrated the need for comprehensive reforms to prevent such practices and support victims. The session concluded with a call for collective action to protect children's rights and ensure ethical adoption processes.

Opening the discussion on follow-up to the 2023 IPU resolution *Orphanage trafficking: The role of parliaments in reducing harm*, Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) explained that between 80% and 90% of children in orphanages had living parents and called for changes in donor and volunteer behaviour to support family preservation rather than institutionalization. Delegates from Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Türkiye and Uruguay reported on legislative efforts to protect orphans and prevent orphanage trafficking, and suggested the creation of indicators to draw parliamentary attention to the phenomenon.

Artificial intelligence

At its second sitting, held on 8 April 2025, the Committee held a debate on follow-up to the implementation of the 2024 IPU resolution *The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law*, with Ms. O'Neill again in the chair.

The sitting began with elections to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee (see [page 39](#)).

The debate on artificial intelligence (AI) took the form of an interactive discussion in three parts: the first on updates on parliamentary actions on AI since the October 2024 resolution, the second on the current state of international cooperation on AI governance, and the third on the use of AI in parliaments.

In the first part of the debate, the Committee was joined by Ms. N. Lugangira (United Republic of Tanzania), one of the co-Rapporteurs who drafted the resolution and helped the Committee finalize the text. Ms. Lugangira spoke about the main developments in the AI landscape since the October 2024 resolution, noting that at least 17 African countries had developed national AI-related strategies, aligning with the African Union's Continental Artificial Intelligence Strategy. She drew attention to the role of AI in gender-based violence, including against women parliamentarians, and to growing concerns about the use of AI to fabricate election results.

In the second part of the debate, the Committee was joined by two experts. Ms. P. Chetty (Research ICT Africa) outlined progress in international cooperation since the 2024 resolution. Mr. A. Saebi (Center for AI and Digital Policy) called for clear red lines in AI systems, for public engagement and oversight, for ratification of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention on AI, and for endorsement of the *Universal Guidelines for AI*. Delegates shared their respective experiences and raised questions around how to legislate the internet of things, how regulation could keep pace with progress, and how broad principles could be translated into effective legislation. The experts drew attention to existing frameworks for AI ethics that could assist parliaments in the key task of ensuring that AI served humanity.

In the third part of the debate, which was moderated by Mr. P. Dalphond (Canada), Mr. A. Williamson (IPU Centre for Innovation in Parliament) provided an expert overview of how parliamentarians could use AI ethically and safely. He outlined the potential of AI to improve constituent engagement, streamline correspondence, support parliamentary work with chatbots, and enhance responsiveness, while addressing challenges such as accuracy, reliability, data security, privacy, ethics and transparency. Delegates shared their experiences with AI, expressing concerns about its role in amplifying gender-based violence, influencing political campaigns and reshaping the labour market. In response, Mr. Williamson acknowledged the questions and stressed the importance of seizing AI-related opportunities with caution.

The Committee took note of a proposal to include AI as a permanent agenda item, given the transformative potential of the technology and the rapid evolution of its capabilities.

Special guests

The following special guests participated in the work of the Committee (remotely, unless otherwise indicated):

Illegal international adoption

- Mr. Olivier de Frouville, Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University, and Chairperson of the UN Committee on Enforced Disappearances
- Mr. Geoffrey Ijumba, Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Uzbekistan (in person)
- Ms. Coline Fanon, Belgian victim of illegal international adoption

Artificial intelligence

- Ms. Neema Lugangira, member of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania
- Ms. Pria Chetty, Executive Director Designate of Research ICT Africa
- Mr. Alireza Saebi, Centre for AI and Digital Policy
- Mr. Andy Williamson, Senior Researcher at the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament

Report of the Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs

*Noted by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Committee held two sittings, on 7 and 8 April 2025, with Mr. H. Aoyagi (Japan), member of the Bureau of the Committee, as acting President for the first sitting. After opening the session, Mr. Aoyagi invited all present to adopt the agenda of the session and approve the summary record of the previous session, held at the 149th Assembly in Geneva in October 2024.

The UN field presence in support of national development: The case of Uzbekistan

Presenters: Ms. S. Machl, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan; Mr. P. Linnér, Programme Director, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

This session featured a discussion on the role of the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in providing advisory services and capacity-building assistance to Uzbekistan.

In their initial remarks, Ms. S. Machl and her team explained that the UN Country Team consisted of 25 UN entities working to advance progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in six main thematic areas (governance, education, livelihoods and social protection, climate and environment, health, and the Aral Sea region) through 16 joint programmes with a budget of US\$ 352 million. They explained that their work revolved around a five-year Cooperation Framework designed in close coordination with the Government, as well as with the input of the Senate of Uzbekistan and civil society organizations.

While the country had made significant strides toward nationally determined development goals, there were still a number of growing challenges, such as a “demographic dividend” that required greater investments in quality education, and an ageing population that needed more healthcare and other support. On a programmatic level, the UN Country Team had to contend with a funding gap of 25%, which was unlikely to be filled by the time the current Cooperation Framework came to an end at the end of 2025.

Mr. Linnér gave a presentation on the UN development budget, explaining that it continued to be overreliant on earmarking, which afforded UN agencies little flexibility to respond to evolving needs on the ground. He noted in particular that development funding continued to be dominated by a shortlist of large donors, several of whom were cutting back on their commitments.

Mr. Linnér also spoke about how humanitarian assistance, while essential in the face of so many ongoing hotspots, was eroding development budgets without really addressing the underlying needs of developing countries. On the plus side, he noted that practices such as “pooled funding” (in which two or more UN agencies contributed funding to a joint programme) and global thematic funds delivered results in a more cost-effective way. The fact that Uzbekistan was ranked 11th on the list of developing countries receiving pooled funding (US\$ 44 million) helped to explain the UN Country Team’s record of success there.

The debate that followed the initial presentations highlighted the following points:

- Parliaments have a role to play in overseeing the design and funding of UN country programmes, as well as in advocating for high-quality funding with relevant ministries and multilateral organizations, including the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation.
- UN Country Teams must engage parliaments early in the process of formulating country programmes in order to ensure alignment with national priorities.
- UN Country Teams need to document lessons learned and provide regular updates on their programmatic work to enable parliaments to fulfil their oversight role.
- Donors are increasingly challenged by growing conflict risks, which can quickly erase prior development investments. Peace remains the most important condition for obtaining development finance.

The growing role of the BRICS in international relations: What impact for the UN?

Presenters: Mr. C. Cajado Sampaio, member of the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil and of the IPU Executive Committee; Mr. O. Malginov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Uzbekistan

Mr. D. Laouhingamaye (Chad), member of the Bureau of the Committee, was acting President for this second sitting, which focused on the role of the BRICS in international relations. He explained that the discussion built on the October 2024 session of the Committee, which had focused on the role of the G20.

Speaking on behalf of his country as host of the 2025 BRICS Summit, Mr. Cajado Sampaio (Brazil) recalled that the BRICS had begun in 2009 as an informal partnership of like-minded countries seeking to strengthen their political and economic cooperation within the multilateral framework of the UN. In his view, the recent expansion of the BRICS from 5 to 10 members, as well as the inclusion of a number of associate members, was evidence that the group was working well in supporting shared development and peace objectives that were wholly compatible with those of the UN.

Mr. Cajado Sampaio noted that the BRICS had become a strong voice in support of UN Security Council reform, with a view to increasing the representation of Africa and Latin America on this key body for international peace and security at a time when the number of conflicts around the world was at its highest. He further noted that the BRICS was working to make global economic governance more inclusive of developing countries, including through the creation of a more reliable, independent global payment system and efforts to secure a greater voice for developing countries within the International Monetary Fund.

Mr. Malginov presented a similar view of the BRICS as an informal group that was not seeking to establish itself as an international organization in competition with the UN, but that merely worked as a consultative body, open to all interested countries, with no animosity against anyone. He recalled the BRICS Summit that had been held in the Russian Federation in 2024, as well as the many initiatives that had been taken up on that occasion. He noted that a BRICS parliamentary forum was convened regularly to provide a sounding board to the governmental Summit.

The debate that followed the initial presentations highlighted the following points:

- The BRICS has grown as an influential group on the international scene, with its members now accounting for 37% of global gross domestic product (by purchasing power parity). The group has no aspiration to become a rules-making organization. It exists principally to help member countries harness the global economy for the benefit of their people.
- Unlike the G20 and other informal groups, however, the BRICS is also championing new institutions such as the New Development Bank to help finance projects in the Global South. Some countries regard this as an inevitable response to the inability of the multilateral system to fairly address the needs of all members of the international community.
- The BRICS is committed to the core mission of the UN as an organization working for peace, as evidenced by the fact some members of the group are among the top contributors to UN Peacekeeping.
- The UN has everything to gain from working closely with the BRICS and the G20, including through the creation of joint working groups. National parliaments have an important oversight role to play at the UN, as well as within these other informal groups.

Special briefing on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Ms. M. Lorenzo (Director, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) Office for Europe), briefed the Committee on recent developments in Gaza, where 10,000 UNRWA staff – doctors, teachers, counsellors and other professionals – were working every day to help the population meet their basic needs in the face of the ongoing offensive by the Israel Defense Forces. She reported that Israel had blocked all humanitarian aid from coming into Gaza, imperilling the lives of thousands of people. Aid workers were being targeted, and some 300 of them had been killed to date. Despite this situation, UNRWA continued to do what it could, including providing education to children online. However, the agency's resources were dwindling and urgent support was needed for operations to continue. Ms. Lorenzo stressed that the international community's response to the killing of 50,000 innocent civilians so far, and to the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, was placing immense strain on the rules-based multilateral system.

Elections were also held to fill vacant seats on the Bureau of the Committee (see [page 40](#)).

With no other business remaining, the acting President brought the session to a close.

Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules

Statutes

*Amendments adopted by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Article 1

4bis. In all of its work and functioning the IPU shall mainstream a gender perspective and apply a human rights-based approach. In particular, it shall foster gender-balanced representation in its structures and deliberations, with the ultimate goal of achieving overall parity (1).

Add footnote: (1) Parity is understood as a 50:50 ratio. In practice, given the diversity in modalities for representation, gender balance or alternation of each sex should be pursued. Gender balance is understood as being as close to 50:50 as possible, including a 40:60 ratio or a rule by which no sex outnumbers the least represented sex by more than 2. Alternation implies that men and women share or rotate in leadership positions.

Article 10

1. The Assembly shall be composed of parliamentarians designated as delegates by the Member Parliaments and Associate Members. Member Parliaments and Associate Members shall include men and women parliamentarians in their delegation and shall strive to ensure their equal representation. **Member Parliaments and Associate Members shall also strive to include in their delegations young parliamentarians, parliamentarians with disabilities and parliamentarians representing vulnerable groups.**

Article 25

2. The President of the IPU shall be ~~ex-officio~~ President of the Executive Committee. Fifteen members shall be elected by the Governing Council. ~~Each sex shall be represented by no less than one third of the elected members.~~ **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Executive Committee.**

Article 31

1. Any proposal to amend the Statutes shall be submitted in writing to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the meeting of the Assembly. The IPU Secretariat will immediately communicate all such proposals to the Member Parliaments of the IPU. The consideration of such proposed amendments shall be automatically placed on the agenda of the Assembly.

2. Any sub-amendments shall be submitted in writing to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~six weeks~~ **one month** before the meeting of the Assembly. The Secretariat will immediately communicate all such sub-amendments to the Member Parliaments of the IPU.

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Rules of the Assembly

*Amendments adopted by the 150th IPU Assembly
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 14 and Rule 15.3

Delete these Rules and replace with a new Rule 11.2bis, as follows:

11.2bis The Steering Committee shall give its opinion on the admissibility of proposals and propose an ad hoc procedure for the overall emergency item process, for approval by the Assembly.

Rule 17

1. Any delegate may submit amendments relating to the draft resolutions prepared by the rapporteurs on the subject item included in the agenda approved by the Assembly. They shall be deposited with the IPU Secretariat no later than 21 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians **and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians** shall be permitted to submit amendments incorporating a gender **or youth** perspective at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee (cf. Standing Committees, Rule 13.2).

Rule 38

1. The summary record of the proceedings shall be published and distributed **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days** before the following Assembly.

Rule 40

2. Proposals for amending the Rules of the Assembly shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the Assembly meets. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall also, if necessary, communicate to all Member Parliaments any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Assembly.

* * * * *

Rules of the Governing Council

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 42

2. It shall prepare provisional summary records of the meetings which shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments of the IPU ~~within 60 days of the close of the session and~~ **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Governing Council, when they will be submitted for approval by the Governing Council at the opening of its next session.**

Rule 44

2. Proposals for amending the Governing Council's Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall communicate any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council.

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Rules of the Executive Committee

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 5

2. A Vice-President of the IPU shall be ~~appointed~~ **elected** by the Executive Committee ~~each year from among its members~~, at its ~~last~~ **first** session **following the election of a new President or whenever a vacancy arises**, to replace the President of the IPU in case of the latter's absence, or to exercise the latter's functions until such time as a new President is elected by the Governing Council in case of resignation, loss of parliamentary mandate, death, or of the suspension of the rights or affiliation of the Member Parliament of the IPU to which the President belongs. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure that the Vice-President is of the opposite sex and a different geopolitical group to the President, and that there is regular rotation between the different geopolitical groups.**

3. The Executive Committee shall appoint six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee **from among its members**, nominated by each of the geopolitical groups respectively, who shall assist the President of the IPU in his/her work between statutory sessions. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender parity among the six Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee.**

Rule 13

3. The Sub-Committee on Finance shall be composed of one representative from each of the geopolitical groups, selected from among the Executive Committee members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Finance.**

Rule 15

2. It shall prepare provisional summary records of the sessions, which shall be sent to the members of the Committee ~~within 40 days of the close of each session and~~ **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Executive Committee, when they will be** submitted for their approval ~~at the opening of the next session.~~

Rule 16

2. Proposals to amend the Rules of the Executive Committee must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Committee. The Secretariat shall immediately communicate such proposals, as well as any proposals for sub-amendments, to the members of the Committee.

Rules of the Sub-Committee on Finance

Rule 3

1. ~~Bearing in mind the need to strive for geographical representation and gender balance, the~~ **The** Sub-Committee shall be composed of ~~six members of both sexes, one~~ **representative** from each of the geopolitical groups, selected from among the Executive Committee members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender balance in the composition of the Sub-Committee on Finance.**

2. The Sub-Committee shall elect a President from among its members. **An endeavour shall be made to ensure gender and geopolitical rotation at each election of the President.**

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Rules of the Standing Committees

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 13

2. The IPU Secretariat shall send the draft resolution and the explanatory memorandum to the Member Parliaments and Associate Members in advance of the session. Member Parliaments and Associate Members may propose amendments to the draft resolution no later than 21 days before the opening of the Assembly. However, the Forum of Women Parliamentarians **and the Forum of Young Parliamentarians** shall be permitted to submit amendments which incorporate a gender **or youth** perspective into the draft resolutions at any time prior to the closure of the first sitting of the respective Standing Committee. The Committee will finalize the draft resolution and submit it to the Assembly for adoption (cf. Assembly Rule 17.1).

Rule 42

2. It shall prepare the provisional summary record of the meetings, which shall be circulated to all Member Parliaments and Associate Members of the IPU **as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days** before the following session of the Standing Committee, when it will be submitted for approval at the opening sitting.

Rule 43

2. Proposals for amending the Standing Committees' Rules shall be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Governing Council. The IPU Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments of the IPU. It shall communicate any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the meeting of the Governing Council.

Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Amendments adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 36

2. The IPU Secretariat shall prepare the provisional summary record of the meetings, which shall be circulated to Member Parliaments and Associate Members ~~within 60 days of the close of each session~~ **and as soon as possible, but no later than 30 days before the following session of the Forum, when they will be** submitted for the Forum's approval ~~at the opening of the next session.~~

Rule 39

1. Any proposal to amend the Rules of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and of the Governing Council. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all Member Parliaments and Associate Members of the IPU. It shall also send them any proposals for sub-amendments at least one month before the next session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Governing Council.

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Rules of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

*Amendment adopted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Rule 17

2. Proposals to amend the Rules of the Bureau must be formulated in writing and sent to the IPU Secretariat at least ~~three~~ **two** months before the next meeting of the Bureau. The Secretariat shall communicate such proposals immediately to all members of the Bureau and shall do likewise with any proposals for sub-amendments.

Report of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

1. The 39th session of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians was held on 5 and 8 April 2025. It brought together 401 participants, including 131 parliamentarians (104 women and 27 men) from 66 countries, along with representatives from various international organizations.

Election of the President of the 39th session and delivery of welcome addresses to mark the 40th anniversary of the Forum

2. The President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico), opened the session. The Forum elected Ms. T. Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of Uzbekistan and President of the 150th IPU Assembly, as President of its 39th session. Ms. Narbaeva welcomed the participants to the Forum and to the 150th IPU Assembly. Dr. T. Ackson, President of the IPU, Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU, and Ms. López Castro also welcomed the participants and focused on celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians.

3. Ms. Z. Hilal, Secretary of the Forum, gave a presentation on the history of the Forum of Women Parliamentarians. A display of the portraits of 40 women who had led the Forum and impacted on its work, entitled *40 years of action, 40 women of action*, was also presented.

Activities to advance gender equality

4. Ms. V. Riotton (France) summarized the work of the 52nd session of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians, held in Geneva in October 2024, and of its 53rd session, held immediately prior to the Forum meeting. She presented the new IPU study on sexism, harassment and violence against women

in parliaments in the Asia-Pacific region, carried out in collaboration with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

5. Ms. S. Mikayilova (Azerbaijan) reported on the work of the Gender Partnership Group, including the monitoring of women's participation and gender balance in delegations to the 150th Assembly.
6. Participants were briefed on the IPU's recent and future activities to advance gender equality. Ms. López Castro reported on the IPU's *Women in parliament* report and on its *Women in politics* map. She also highlighted the Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians held in Mexico, which resulted in a plan of action for parliaments to advance parity.

Contributions to the work of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective

7. As a contribution to the work of the Assembly, the participants examined, from a gender perspective, the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, entitled *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) introduced the draft resolution of the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security, of which she was one of the co-Rapporteurs. The debate was conducted in two breakout groups, each of which discussed one of the draft resolutions.
8. Ms. L. Reynolds (Australia) and Ms. V. Techateerawat (Thailand) were designated Chair and Rapporteur respectively of Group 1; Ms. Z. Mashaba (Eswatini) and Ms. I.K. Godalena (Democratic Republic of the Congo) were designated Chair and Rapporteur respectively of Group 2.
9. Discussions in Group 1 highlighted concerns about the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on women's rights and gender equality. Many women have been killed due to violence, disease, hunger and a lack of healthcare. They are also affected by gender-based violence, displacement, imprisonment and economic hardship. Participants stressed that parliaments must address the needs of women in conflict, demand access to, and delivery of, essential humanitarian assistance, and promote women's rights and empowerment. Women prisoners and hostages should be liberated with dignity. In line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda, participants also called for the recognition of women's crucial role in resolving conflicts and building societies based on social justice and coexistence. Women's participation in peacebuilding, conflict mediation and post-conflict efforts is essential. The Group agreed that the draft resolution already included a significant gender perspective.
10. Participants in Group 2 emphasized that conflicts disproportionately affect women and girls, which calls for gender-sensitive measures in conflict prevention and resolution. They noted the fundamental role of women in conflict prevention and resolution and called on parliaments to fully implement UN Security Council resolution [1325](#) (2000) with national action plans ranging from increasing women's participation in decision-making and peace processes, to protecting women and girls affected by conflict. They also called for empowering women and girls at the community level, involving them in peace, reconstruction and early warning efforts, and addressing their most pressing needs in education, health and access to finance.
11. The debate conducted in the groups led to the formulation of two amendments to the draft resolution entitled *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. The Forum also expressed support for gender equality-related amendments proposed by national delegations. Most of the proposed and supported amendments were incorporated into the text of the draft resolutions, strengthening the gender perspective of the texts.
12. The Forum resumed its afternoon agenda with two keynote addresses. The first, by Ms. G. Rakhimova, Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance (Uzbekistan), was entitled "Financial support for women: Development and opportunities". The second, from Ms. R. Turdiboeva, Deputy Minister of Employment and Poverty Reduction (Uzbekistan), focused on her country's experience in providing vocational education for women, ensuring their employment and encouraging their entrepreneurship.

Panel discussion on *Women shaping politics: Global networks*

13. The panel discussion focused on how to strengthen the role of women's networks in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in political leadership.

14. The discussion included presentations by Ms. D. Kirkpatrick (New Zealand) from the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians network; Ms. S. Kheng (Cambodia) from the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Francophonie; Ms. L. Gumerova (Russian Federation) from the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum; Ms. P.S. Chemerai Anding (Malaysia) from the Women of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly; and Ms. Y. Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. Participants also heard interventions from Mr. M. Chungong, IPU Secretary-General and Chair of the Global Board of the International Gender Champions, from Ms. N. Lugangira (United Republic of Tanzania), Women Political Leaders Special Envoy for Africa, and, via video message, from Ms. A. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, on the Women Rise for All initiative.

15. The participants shared their experiences of how the Forum of Women Parliamentarians contributes to building their capacity and expertise as parliamentarians. The Forum was also described as a safe platform for building self-confidence, forging consensus among women from different contexts, and advocating for systemic change to achieve gender equality and break down barriers to women's political leadership. Many participants stressed that awareness-raising should be followed by a concrete action plan for implementation. Suggestions were made for further advancing gender equality, including strengthening cooperation, building bridges and institutionalizing partnerships between women's leadership networks, and enhancing cross-regional cooperation. Collective action by networks is also needed to protect and promote equality against backlash and to mobilize male allies to stand up, embody gender equality and challenge gender inequalities.

Elections to the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

16. The Forum elected representatives to fill half of the seats for representatives of the geopolitical groups.

17. Based on a proposal by the Bureau, the Forum also elected Ms. C. López Castro (Mexico) to the post of President, Ms. T. Vardanyan (Armenia) to the post of First Vice-President, and Ms. F. Öncü (Türkiye) to the post of Second Vice-President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians.

Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

18. The Bureau met on 5, 8 and 9 April 2025. At its meeting on 9 April, the Bureau took stock of the results of the 150th Assembly from a gender perspective and considered its future work, including mobilizing parliaments to lead action on gender equality, the IPU's priority theme for 2025. The Bureau was consulted on the social media self-defence training for women in politics developed by the eSafety Commissioner of Australia.

Report of the Forum of Young Parliamentarians

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Forum of Young Parliamentarians was held on 6 April 2025. It brought together more than 100 participants, including 47 parliamentarians (17 young women and 30 young men) from 42 countries, as well as representatives from youth parliaments and partner organizations. The meeting was presided over by Mr. D. Carden (United Kingdom), President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Carden reflected on the achievements of the Bureau and Forum over the last two years and acknowledged the valuable contributions of his fellow Bureau members. Key highlights included the lowering of the age to be considered a young MP at the IPU from under 45 to under 40 years, events to better connect young MPs to youth at the grassroots level, and an increased focus on youth employment and rights.

The IPU President addressed the Forum. She acknowledged the contributions made by the outgoing Bureau, including their determined efforts to push for lowering the age threshold to be considered a young MP. She also stressed the need to further harness the power of young MPs to bring fresh solutions to the world's persistent problems, especially regarding peacebuilding and the promotion of gender equality. The IPU Secretary General also addressed the Forum and praised the manner in which young MPs were now embedded in many leadership structures within the IPU, congratulating them on their track record of continuously rejuvenating the work of the Organization.

The young MPs in attendance updated the Forum on recent developments in promoting youth participation in their countries. Highlights included new launches of the *I Say Yes to Youth in Parliament!* campaign, and advances in engagement with youth parliaments, committees and councils. Noting the challenges faced by youth in some countries as a result of conflict, and the suppression of youth voices, the young MPs recommitted to sustaining positive momentum in upholding and further promoting the political rights of youth and women.

As a contribution to the work of the 150th Assembly, participants examined the theme of the General Debate, *Parliamentary action for social development and justice*, from a youth perspective. In their remarks, young MPs discussed the tremendous value of social development programmes, including for healthcare, education and economic empowerment, as well as the need to strengthen these programmes in order to shape a more just world. They also emphasized the importance of more targeted policy action focused on minorities and people in marginalized and vulnerable situations.

Youth overview reports, aimed at contributing youth perspectives, were presented on the two draft resolutions considered at the Assembly: *The role of parliaments in advancing a two-State solution in Palestine*, and *Parliamentary strategies to mitigate the long-lasting impact of conflicts, including armed conflicts, on sustainable development*. In their discussions, the young MPs called for a just and durable two-State solution, and for increased youth participation in peace and security efforts in accordance with UN Security Council resolution [2250](#) (2015) on youth, peace and security. The young MPs also called for greater protection of human rights, including the elimination of gender-based violence.

The Forum approved the nominations made by the geopolitical groups for membership of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians for 2025–2027. The new Bureau then held a meeting, during which it elected Ms. N.A. Ghoush (Jordan) as its President. In her remarks, Ms. Ghoush praised young people for their strength and unbreakable determination, and said that she looked forward to leading the Forum as a platform for improving the situations of young people around the world.

In preparation for the 151st IPU Assembly, the Forum appointed Mr. K. Ait Mik (Morocco) to prepare a youth overview report on the proposed resolution *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*. The young MPs stressed the importance of balancing two priorities: addressing violations and holding perpetrators to account, while at the same time considering the negative stigma that may arise for victims. A conscientious approach was recommended, with an emphasis on listening to victims to make sure their voices and concerns were heard.

Earlier in the day, the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians met and took stock of youth participation at the 150th Assembly. They celebrated the fact that this was the first Assembly since the age limit to be considered a young MP had been lowered. They acknowledged that this change must go hand in hand with greater efforts to encourage parliaments and geopolitical groups to increase proportions of young MPs. They also agreed on procedures to address a possible forthcoming change to the IPU Statutes allowing the Forum to propose amendments to Standing Committee resolutions. Having looked back on their work over the past two years, Bureau members expressed the hope that their successors would maintain current high levels of participation, as well as build on the advancements made in connecting with young people and promoting gender equality.

Report of the Committee on Middle East Questions

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

An informal meeting of the Committee on Middle East Questions was held virtually on 12 March 2025. The purpose of the informal meeting was to discuss operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution before the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security concerning the proposed restructuring of the Committee on Middle East Questions. At least four members shared differing perspectives on the proposed changes and the overall restructuring process.

The Committee's lack of tangible progress in supporting efforts to reduce tensions and promote engagement between the parties led some members to question its effectiveness, mandate and role. Similar concerns had been raised at the Committee's previous formal meeting during the 149th Assembly. The Secretariat had responded by sharing among members, in advance of the formal meeting during the Assembly, a draft structural proposal for the composition and modalities of the Committee. The Secretariat had also issued a questionnaire to accompany the proposal, inviting members to share their expectations in terms of the new structure of the Committee. Four members (Indonesia, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Türkiye) submitted responses to the questionnaire.

A formal meeting of the Committee was held in two sittings on 6 and 8 April 2025. The Committee proceeded with the renewal of the one-year mandate of its President. Members heard a report from the Secretariat on regional developments since the 149th Assembly, and their impact on the Committee's planned activities. These included the newly appointed government in the Syrian Arab Republic and the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Yemen. The political developments and escalations of armed conflict in both countries had prompted concerns, both within the international community and among members, regarding instability in the region and its possible implications. Members shared their overview of the situation in both countries.

The Secretariat presented an overview of a report it had compiled on proposed changes to the Committee's structure, composition and rules of procedure. Members exchanged views on various conflicts and political developments in the region, noting the need to broaden the Committee's political focus in light of the growing number of conflicts. Members also highlighted the structural imbalances within the current composition of the Committee, due in particular to uneven geographical representation.

In response, the Secretariat proposed the creation of a limited-membership task force, as well as the establishment of geopolitical and thematic discussion groups that would focus on themes such as forgotten conflicts, parliaments in transition, and elements of peaceful coexistence. In its report, the Secretariat proposed expanding the Committee's membership from 12 to 21 members to ensure more balanced geographical representation. The proposed structure would include three members from each geopolitical group, the two current ex officio members, plus two further ex officio members: the President of the Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and the President of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians. Some members raised concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Committee from 12 to 21 members, citing potential challenges in maintaining fluid dialogue and ensuring the active participation of all members. It was noted that, even under the current structure, member engagement remained limited.

In addition, some members expressed reservations about broadening the Committee's scope to include additional conflicts and emergency situations in the region, cautioning that such an expansion could dilute the Committee's original focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In response, members were reminded that the Committee's mandate encompassed all conflicts in the region. The President of the Committee clarified that the proposed structural changes aimed to strengthen the Committee's ability to monitor multiple crises in the region and to ensure that no situation was overlooked, while reaffirming that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would remain at the core of the Committee's work. It was further explained that the proposal sought to facilitate more in-depth engagement by assigning smaller groups to focus on specific countries, evolving situations and cross-cutting thematic areas. Members also inquired about the possibility of a visit to the region, particularly to Gaza, in order to assess the scale of the damage. The Secretariat informed members that a preliminary mission was planned for May 2025, with the participation of the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Committee. This mission would serve as a preparatory step for a future visit involving all Committee members.

At its sitting on 8 April 2025, the Committee heard a briefing from Ms. M. Lorenzo (representing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)), on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank following the escalation of hostilities on 7 October 2023. She outlined the impact of the conflict on civilians and humanitarian personnel, noting the disruption of essential services, large-scale displacement and the suspension of education. She also referred to the operational and financial challenges faced by UNRWA, as well as the implications of limited access and growing misinformation. Ms. Lorenzo indicated that if her agency were unable to fulfil its mandate, the matter would need to be referred back to the UN General Assembly. She provided updates on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, and drew attention to the constraints affecting humanitarian operations in the Golan Heights. She reiterated the role of UNRWA as a humanitarian actor and called for efforts to safeguard its ability to operate.

In the discussion that followed, members expressed concern about the humanitarian conditions and inquired about access challenges, the feasibility of alternative mechanisms, and options for international support. Several delegations underscored the significance of preserving the mandate and operational continuity of UNRWA, while highlighting the need to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

The Committee also heard a presentation by Mr. Abdulla Al Manai, Executive Director of the King Hamad Global Centre for Coexistence and Tolerance, on initiatives to foster dialogue and inclusion through education, stakeholder engagement, and legislative support to promote peace, the rule of law and social cohesion.

In closing its 82nd session, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to contributing to a just and lasting resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-State solution and in accordance with international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. Members noted the importance of continued monitoring of regional developments, and viewed the proposed structural reforms and greater focus on specific themes as important steps in enhancing the Committee's responsiveness and representativeness. The Committee agreed to transmit its conclusions and recommendations to the Governing Council for further consideration.

Report of the Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL) met on 7 April 2025.

Report on actions taken on selected humanitarian issues

The Committee discussed the follow-up to its previous session in October 2024 and reported on actions taken by its members. The topics covered included the following:

- Recent legislative action in Thailand requesting that the government register thousands of stateless persons, and resulting in the granting of citizenship to more than 480,000 individuals
- The adoption and implementation of the Shirika Plan in Kenya, aimed at supporting the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees
- Action by the Committee member from Australia, who brought the situation of Sudan to the attention of the Australian national IHL committee, moved a motion in the Senate to acknowledge the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to make them a more regular topic of discussion in the country's political agenda, and has committed both to reach out to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the issue of statelessness and to raise this matter in the Senate in its session in June 2025
- Contributions to global IHL processes by Chile, which participated in the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2024, where it joined the voluntary pledge made by Switzerland on the application of IHL to the use of information and communications technologies in situations of armed conflict

The Committee called for the resources to which its membership has access, such as expert briefings on IHL and selected situations of humanitarian concern, to be made available to all IPU Member Parliaments, and asked for steps to be taken to that end. It also stressed the importance of coordinating its work with IPU Standing Committees working on similar areas.

Review of specific situations of humanitarian concern

The Committee received an update on recent developments in situations of humanitarian concern that it had been monitoring over the past few years. During this session, it paid particular attention to Myanmar, with an emphasis on Rohingya refugees. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided a briefing.

Since the military takeover in Myanmar four years ago, the humanitarian situation in the country has deteriorated drastically. As of March 2025, there are 1.5 million Myanmar refugees and asylum-seekers in Asia and the Pacific, among which over 1.1 million are stateless Rohingya. In total, 3.5 million people have been internally displaced by conflict. An estimated 19.9 million people, including 6.3 million children, are currently in need of assistance as a result of expanding armed conflict, widespread explosive ordnance and landmine contamination, climatic shocks, disease outbreaks, and economic and political instability. In addition, thousands of people have died or been injured as a result of the earthquake that hit the country in March 2025, with 1.5 million internally displaced persons in areas affected by the disaster. Myanmar continues to have one of the world's most underfunded humanitarian response plans.

The situation facing the Rohingya community has become protracted. They have been subject to violence and marginalization in every context, whether in Rakhine State in Myanmar, in the camps in Bangladesh or in immigration detention centres. There has also been a rise in irregular maritime movements, where Rohingya refugees undertake dangerous boat journeys, including via the Thailand-Myanmar border. Such movements pose significant risks to their lives.

The Committee expressed serious concerns about the devastating humanitarian landscape in Myanmar, and especially about the situation of the Rohingya community. It highlighted current challenges, such as protracted and new displacement caused by ongoing armed conflict and persecution, limited access to humanitarian assistance, and reports of pushbacks and deportations. It also voiced concerns about the significant reduction in funding for humanitarian assistance globally, which was having a direct impact on those affected by the conflict in Myanmar. The Committee made a call to all parliaments to raise awareness about the Myanmar context, focusing not only on the humanitarian consequences of the recent earthquake, but also on those civilians, including refugees, who had been long affected by the conflict. Committee members also called for enhanced support from the global parliamentary community to ensure that those responsible for the war crimes and violations of IHL committed in the context of this conflict would be held to account.

Following up on the discussions held in the session, the Committee agreed to explore the possibility of a field mission to the Thailand-Myanmar border in order to gain first-hand insights into the challenges faced by those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar.

Parliamentary commitments to promote respect for international humanitarian law

The Committee discussed the [Global Initiative to galvanise political commitment to international humanitarian law](#), launched by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in September 2024. Led by Brazil, China, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan and South Africa, the initiative aims to make IHL a political priority at global, regional and domestic levels. The Committee, briefed by the ICRC, discussed how the global parliamentary community as a whole, and parliaments individually, could contribute to the initiative's various workstreams, one of which related to strengthening IHL implementation. The Committee invited all parliaments to consider taking steps and adopting measures to make IHL a political priority in their respective countries.

The Committee also considered the findings of the ICRC report entitled [International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts](#), which it had begun discussing at its session in October 2024. During this session, Committee members exchanged with the ICRC on the issue of the urbanization of armed conflict, focusing in particular on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Members expressed concern that, with armed conflicts being increasingly fought in urban environments, explosive weapons with wide-area effects were very likely to have indiscriminate effects when used in populated areas. The Committee discussed how parliaments could engage their governments in adhering to the [Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas](#) and in ensuring its implementation.

The Committee recalled its decision, taken in the session in October 2024, to organize future online briefings and webinars in partnership with the ICRC to inform and engage the global parliamentary community on pressing IHL challenges.

Parliamentary commitments towards ending statelessness

The Committee discussed efforts towards ending statelessness. It heard a personal testimony from Ms. Adlyn Teoh (Affected Leader at the Family Frontiers' Affected Mothers Network, Malaysia) who, as a mother, had not been entitled under the law to transmit her nationality to her child, and whose child had had limited rights due to this lack of nationality. The Committee welcomed the recently adopted constitutional amendment granting Malaysian women the equal right to confer automatic citizenship on their children born overseas. Although the amendment has been voted on and passed by parliament, it has yet to be published in the official gazette and, as such, has not yet been implemented. The Committee looks forward to the publication of this amendment and its full implementation.

Report of the Advisory Group on Health

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

The Advisory Group on Health met on 7 April 2025 for its 32nd and last meeting before its transformation into an IPU Committee.

The Group highlighted the importance of monitoring parliamentary efforts on universal health coverage (UHC) based on the 2019 IPU resolution *Achieving universal health coverage by 2030: The role of parliaments in ensuring the right to health*. The Group recalled work to date on this matter, including the

production of two reports on the implementation of the resolution. It adopted a revised accountability framework focusing on legal provisions for UHC, barriers to access to health, and the protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights. Measures include a review of existing data to take stock of global progress and gaps, and direct engagement with parliamentary delegations to enhance ownership of, and accountability for, the UHC resolution. The World Health Organization (WHO), as technical partner to the Advisory Group, stands ready to support the process.

The Group reflected on the shift in the global health funding landscape caused by cuts to global health aid, as well as on the wider question of the place of health and development in a world marked by conflicts and crises of different natures. The Group heard reports from WHO and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health on the negative consequences of this shift in health-related areas such as immunization, health emergencies, the collection of health data at the national level, and the promotion of women's empowerment and diversity.

Finally, the Group took stock of its work since its inception in 2006, including the documentation of law reforms to strengthen national HIV/AIDS responses, the first attempt to document parliamentary contributions towards UHC, and constant attention and dialogue on sensitive topics such as sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Group highlighted the relevance of the current health priorities going forward. It expressed its wish for the new Committee on Health to build on the strong legacy of the Advisory Group and continue raising the visibility of health within the IPU.

Report of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

On 5 April 2025, the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) convened its eighteenth meeting. The meeting began with welcoming remarks from the Secretary General, who acknowledged the presence of all participants and highlighted the importance of the Group's ongoing work. He underscored the need to elect a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, emphasizing that strong leadership would be essential for the effective implementation of the work programme aimed at promoting global peace and security.

The Secretary General noted that one of the key issues on the agenda was the ongoing debate regarding the definition of terrorism. He expressed appreciation for the experts and parliamentarians who had participated in the recent expert meeting on the matter, and reiterated that, while there was currently no universally agreed definition, efforts were underway to develop one that was clear, depoliticized, and firmly rooted in human rights and justice.

The Secretary General also emphasized the relevance of the Group's discussion on the implementation plan for the ad hoc committee on the *Call of the Sahel*. He stressed that this initiative was designed to address critical challenges in the region, including security threats, humanitarian concerns and political instability. The ad hoc committee will focus on five strategic priority areas: development, education, security, environment and communities. These areas are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reflect a shared commitment to advancing lasting peace and prosperity in the Sahel region.

During the meeting, members elected Ms. M. Guerra Castillo (Mexico) as the new Chairperson and Ms. L. Saint-Paul (France) as the Vice-Chairperson. Both will serve a one-year term, with eligibility for re-election for an additional year.

The newly elected Chairperson, Ms. Guerra Castillo, continued with the agenda, and an update to the work programme was presented. This update primarily focused on the meetings added to the 2025 work programme, including expert meetings on the definition of terrorism, meetings on artificial intelligence (AI) and its connection to terrorism and transnational organized crime, and a meeting on migration and the prevention of violent extremism.

It was also reported that meetings would be held across different regions, including Latin America and Africa. Additionally, Libya offered to host a visit to Benghazi, providing an opportunity to exchange experiences on how the country had addressed terrorism and endeavoured to prevent violent extremism. It was proposed that the next Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism could also be held in Benghazi.

Several delegations requested that all regions, including Asia-Pacific, be included in future capacity-building initiatives and workshops as part of the global effort to combat terrorism. This inclusive approach aims to ensure that the fight against terrorism is addressed comprehensively and equitably across all regions.

The discussions then turned to the progress made in defining terrorism. Information was shared about the expert meeting held on 13 April 2025, which featured distinguished panellists such as Mr. Ben Saul (Professor and Challis Chair of International Law at the University of Sydney, and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism), Ms. Christina Schori Liang (Head of Counter-Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism at the Geneva Centre for Security and Policy), and Mr. Serge Stroobants (Director, Europe and MENA at the Institute for Economics and Peace).

The panellists agreed on the importance of having a clear definition of terrorism to ensure that measures and legislation were more effective and precise. However, they also noted that the lack of a universally accepted definition had not prevented countries from working to combat terrorism.

It was emphasized that having a clear definition would help to prevent the misclassification of other acts of violence that did not necessarily fall under the category of terrorism. The need to not start from scratch was also discussed, as some progress had already been made at the United Nations level.

Group members heard that the definition should condemn criminal acts that intentionally caused death or serious injury, with a specific intent beyond the act itself. It was also noted that the definition should ensure the protection of human rights and prevent the misuse of counter-terrorism efforts to target government opponents, human rights defenders or other groups. One delegation pointed out the emergence of new forms of terrorism, including economic terrorism, highlighting that the use of unilateral sanctions could be viewed as a form of economic terrorism that targeted entire nations and undermined regional stability.

The Secretariat also noted that discussions on the topic would continue and expressed hope that everyone would work together to reach a definition, while avoiding politicization and focusing on the progress made on the issue. Group members expressed their appreciation for the work done by the Secretariat and conveyed their gratitude for the efforts undertaken. They also affirmed their commitment to participating in future meetings on the topic.

The plan for the ad hoc committee on the *Call of the Sahel* includes the appointment of facilitators who have expressed interest in the five key priority areas and will be tasked with organizing the related work, activities and meetings. Each of the teams will be supported by the IPU Secretariat, as well as by specialized UN agencies, other international organizations, academia, and non-governmental organizations working on various programmes in the region. A facilitator for the “communities” priority area has yet to be appointed. The Secretariat informed Group members that they would be kept updated on future meetings for each of the key areas.

An initial exchange was held on the growing relevance of AI in the context of terrorism and transnational organized crime. The objective of this exchange was to lay the foundation for future work on this complex and multidimensional issue.

The session featured three panellists: Mr. Stroobants, Ms. Wendy O'Brien (Senior Expert and Focal Point on Artificial Intelligence at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), and Mr. Bahouba Tankoano (Head of International Parliamentary Organizations at the Parliament of Burkina Faso).

The following key areas of concern and analysis were highlighted during the discussion:

- Current uses of AI by terrorist and organized crime groups, including how AI tools and digital platforms are being exploited to plan, finance or carry out criminal and terrorist acts
- Risks and broader security implications, and in particular the challenges emerging technologies pose to existing counter-terrorism and legal frameworks
- The exploitation of online platforms for a wide range of activities, such as recruitment, radicalization, command and control, propaganda dissemination, training, and financing

Particular attention was given to the use of cryptocurrencies, which, when combined with accessible AI technologies, were creating new channels for financing terrorism. Concern was also raised regarding the activities of lone actors, whose minimal digital footprint and independent radicalization processes made them especially difficult for security and intelligence services to detect and monitor, especially when the financial activities of such actors remained hidden.

The discussions underscored the urgent need for deeper exploration of how AI amplifies these threats, and how legislators and policymakers could respond effectively to the unique challenges of this evolving landscape.

The Chairperson concluded the meeting by stating that various agreements had been reached across the different areas of work discussed. She also highlighted the fact that participants had expressed their satisfaction with the good work carried out by the Secretariat. The participants reaffirmed their continued support for, and commitment to, ongoing collaboration with the IPU's counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism programme. In her final remarks, the Chairperson invited everyone to actively participate in the next meeting of the Group, to be held in Geneva in October 2025.

Report of the Working Group on Science and Technology

*Noted by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

One sitting of the Working Group was held in Tashkent on 7 April 2025. At least 11 members attended the meeting.

The Working Group welcomed the new members elected in October 2024. They were briefed by the Chairperson on the Parliamentarians Roundtable, organized by UN-Habitat with the support of the IPU, and held at the 12th World Urban Forum in Cairo on 7 November 2024. The event, which brought together parliamentarians and other stakeholders, focused on showcasing legislative initiatives that effectively addressed urban challenges such as housing, climate change, resilience and inequality. The 113 participants shared experiences from their respective cities, reaffirming the value of legislative engagement in sustainable urban development. During the event, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat expressed her commitment to further strengthening the partnership between her organization and the IPU.

The IPU Secretariat briefed the Working Group on an invitation to join the Earth-Humanity Coalition, a transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral initiative led by UNESCO and aligned with the UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (2024–2033). The initiative aims to mobilize scientific communities and various stakeholders in joint efforts to address global challenges, particularly in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and societal transformation. It was noted that such a move would help strengthen the role of parliamentary committees responsible for science and education through the creation of a network linking these committees with the coalition to foster science-informed legislation and policymaking. Working Group members stressed that decision-making supported by robust, scientific evidence was precisely what was often lacking in the climate change debate. It was agreed that members would look further into this matter and make an informed decision at their next meeting.

Working Group members were encouraged to participate in the 10th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, to take place on 7 and 8 May 2025 in New York. Being represented at this event would allow the Working Group to promote its initiatives such as the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology* and the Science for Peace Schools. Members were also encouraged to participate in the International Joint Conference on Neural Networks 2025 (IJCNN2025), to be held in Rome from 30 June to 5 July 2025. The conference will include a dedicated focus on the regulatory and ethical dimensions of artificial intelligence (AI), exploring both challenges and opportunities in this rapidly evolving field.

Working Group members discussed the findings of a survey on parliamentarians' use of scientific research. Several significant barriers to the effective use of scientific evidence were identified. Time constraints were found to be a major issue, as was a lack of staff and resources to translate complex evidence into actionable knowledge. Making evidence comprehensible not only facilitates its use by parliaments but also increases transparency and public understanding. These challenges limit broader and more systematic engagement with scientific evidence in parliamentary processes. Members discussed the regional imbalance in the survey, noting that half of the respondents were from Europe, and that this overrepresentation could have skewed the results, leading to an inaccurate reflection of global parliamentary engagement with science and research. Members emphasized the need for

concrete strategies to enhance the survey methodology, ensuring broader and more diverse participation. Without such adjustments, the survey's credibility and its ability to represent global perspectives on parliamentary use of scientific evidence could be compromised.

Members agreed that improving how parliaments access and interpret scientific knowledge should be a core priority for the Working Group going forward. Proposals included establishing a repository of policy-ready scientific briefs, partnering with academic institutions for on-demand expert input, organizing virtual seminars tailored to specific committee needs, and developing capacity-building initiatives for parliamentary research staff. These suggestions underscored the Working Group's evolving role not merely as a platform for dialogue but also as a driver of practical parliamentary innovation in science and technology. Members reflected on the importance of the IPU's series of workshops for parliamentarians on AI. It was suggested that the IPU's Centre for Innovation in Parliament could participate in the next Working Group meeting in order to present the Organization's publications on AI.

Mr. Wallace S. Cheng (Head of Impact, Innovation and Development, Globethics) delivered a presentation to Working Group members on how ethical principles could guide efforts to close the digital divide between the Global North and South. He welcomed the *IPU Charter on the Ethics of Science and Technology*, describing it as a visionary milestone that addressed both present and future ethical challenges. He emphasized current pressing issues such as misinformation, election interference, job displacement, and exploitative labour conditions in AI supply chains. Mr. Cheng also praised the Charter for anticipating future risks, such as the erosion of human critical thinking and the potential loss of control over AI systems. He warned of a growing AI arms race, citing recent reports that predicted the emergence of superintelligent agents by 2028, and argued that the current trajectory risked sidelining human agency. He proposed a shift from competition to ethical collaboration, urging parliamentarians to reframe AI as a global common good, advocate for bans on military AI, and support AI diplomacy for peace. In terms of practical measures, Mr. Cheng recommended focusing on regional AI research networks, ethical innovation ecosystems and inclusive regulatory frameworks.

The IPU Secretariat briefed the Working Group on ongoing preparations for the upcoming second Science for Peace School, *Understanding artificial intelligence (AI) and its impact on parliamentary work: AI, human consciousness and ethics*. The second School, organized in cooperation with the King Hamad Global Center for Coexistence and Tolerance, will feature two sessions: an executive session for parliamentary staff, to be held at the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) in Allan, Jordan, on 5–9 May 2025, and a parliamentary session, to be held at the International Centre for Interdisciplinary Science and Education (ICISE) in Quy Nhon, Viet Nam, on 10–12 September 2025.

The Working Group discussed recent global events that had significantly influenced the AI landscape, with a particular emphasis on the ethical, social and political implications of AI for parliamentary work. Part of the discussion focused on the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2025, held in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland, on 20–24 January 2025, and on its related white paper *Blueprint for Intelligent Economies: AI Competitiveness through Regional Collaboration*. Working Group members also discussed the AI Action Summit, held in Paris on 10 and 11 February 2025, and its related *Statement on Inclusive and Sustainable Artificial Intelligence for People and the Planet*. They stressed the importance of parliaments actively engaging with the ethical, social and political dimensions of AI. As AI technologies continue to evolve, parliaments will need to adapt their legislative frameworks to address emerging challenges such as privacy and discrimination, as well as the societal impacts of AI on human rights and employment.

In terms of future priorities, the Chairperson proposed revising the Working Group's terms of reference to ensure that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson were not of the same sex, noting that this would represent a step forward in terms of promoting gender balance in leadership. The sitting marked the last meeting for some members, whose four-year mandates had come to an end. It concluded on a heartfelt note, as members took the opportunity to thank the leadership and to express their appreciation for the collaborative spirit, friendships and valuable learning experiences that had marked their time in the Working Group. An open invitation was issued for current and former members to continue working together in future forums and initiatives related to science and technology.

Finally, the Working Group elected Ms. M. Cederfelt (Sweden) as its Chairperson and Mr. N. In-na (Thailand) as its Vice-Chairperson and agreed on its work plan for 2025.

Statistics of the Gender Partnership Group

Status of participation of women delegates at the 150th Assembly of the IPU (at 10 April 2025)

Composition of delegations of IPU members attending the last eight IPU statutory meetings (Madrid 2021 - present)

Meeting	Total delegates	Total/percentage of women delegates		Total delegations	Total/percentage of all-male delegations (2 or more)		Total all-female delegations (2 or more)	Total single-sex delegations (2 or more)	Total single-member delegations (male and female)
Tashkent (10/04/25)	682	254	37.2	127	10	8.1	4	14	4
Geneva (10/24)	615	224	36.4	129	7	5.8	2	9	9
Geneva (03/24)	703	252	35.8	142	15	11.4	2	17	10
Luanda (10/23)	600	217	36.2	128	10	8.3	3	13	8
Manama (03/23)	661	228	34.5	136	21	16	3	24	5
Kigali (10/22)	553	196	35.4	120	14	12.6	4	18	9
Nusa Dua (03/22)	393	153	38.9	101	13	14.4	3	16	11
Madrid (11/21)	509	198	38.9	117	10	9.3	3	13	10

Single-sex, multi-member delegations of IPU members present in Tashkent (status on 10 April 2025)

N°	Country	Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Australia	2	0	2	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	5	2	3	5	2	3	5	2	0	2	absent		
2	Bhutan	0	5	5	1	4	5	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		
3	Bulgaria*	2	0	2	absent			1	0	1	1	1	2	absent			absent			1	0	1	absent		
4	Croatia	0	2	2	1	2	3	absent			1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	2
5	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0	4	4	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		
6	Estonia	2	0	2	3	2	5	3	2	5	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	1	4	3	1	4	1	1	2
7	Ethiopia	0	4	4	1	4	5	1	4	5	0	4	4	0	3	3	absent			absent			absent		
8	Fiji	0	3	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3	absent			absent		
9	Kyrgyzstan	0	4	4	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		
10	Malta	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	3
11	Paraguay	0	6	6	2	4	6	0	3	3	absent			0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2	2
12	Portugal	0	4	4	2	6	8	2	4	6	2	5	7	2	3	5	2	1	3	2	1	3	3	2	5
13	Sweden	7	0	7	2	3	5	4	3	7	2	2	4	4	3	7	1	2	3	1	3	4	2	2	4
14	Tajikistan	0	2	2	absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent			absent		

Single-member delegations of IPU members present in Tashkent (status on 10 April 2025)

N°	Country	Tashkent Apr25			Geneva Oct24			Geneva Mar24			Luanda Oct23			Manama Mar23			Kigali Oct22			Nusa Dua Mar22			Madrid Nov21		
		Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total	Women MPs	Men MPs	Total
1	Dominican Republic*	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	absent			absent			absent			1	1	2
2	Mozambique*	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	4	3	1	4	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	3
3	Philippines	0	1	1	3	4	7	6	5	11	absent			3	4	7	absent			absent			1	0	1
4	Spain	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	2	1	2	3	1	5	6	0	6	6	1	3	4	2	4	6

* Delegations subjected to sanctions at the 150th Assembly, pursuant to Articles 10.4 and 15.2c of the IPU Statutes, for being composed exclusively of representatives of the same sex for two consecutive Assemblies

51st session of the Gender Partnership Group

Tashkent (Uzbekistan), 10 April 2025

Delegations with 40 to 60 per cent of women parliamentarians

The Gender Partnership Group promotes gender parity within the delegations of IPU Member Parliaments to the Assemblies and has decided to give visibility to those that are composed of a minimum of 40 per cent and maximum of 60 per cent of each gender.

The countries below are ordered according to the percentage of women parliamentarians in their delegations at the 150th IPU Assembly.

There are a total of 47 gender-balanced delegations out of 127 delegations (37 per cent) of IPU members attending the 150th IPU Assembly (as at 10 April 2025) compared to a total of 49 gender-balanced delegations out of 129 delegations (38 per cent) who attended the 149th IPU Assembly.

Delegations with 40 to 49.9 per cent women parliamentarians (15):

Equatorial Guinea	40%	Uganda	40%
Germany	40%	Indonesia	42%
Greece	40%	Belgium	43%
Ireland	40%	Democratic Republic of the Congo	43%
Kazakhstan	40%	Uzbekistan	43%
Libya	40%	Zimbabwe	43%
Nepal	40%	United Kingdom	44%
Türkiye	40%		

Delegations with 50 per cent women parliamentarians (24):

Armenia	Montenegro
Austria	New Zealand
Belarus	Palestine
Burundi	Peru
Iraq	San Marino
Italy	Sao Tome and Principe
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Serbia
Lithuania	South Africa
Malawi	Timor-Leste
Malaysia	Turkmenistan
Mauritania	United Republic of Tanzania
Monaco	Uruguay

Delegations with 50.1 to 60 per cent women parliamentarians (8):

Poland	56%	Canada	60%
South Sudan	56%	Eswatini	60%
Azerbaijan	57%	Guyana	60%
United Arab Emirates	57%	Mexico	60%

Calendar of future meetings and other activities

*Approved by the IPU Governing Council at its 215th session
(Tashkent, 9 April 2025)*

Regional seminar for West and Central African transitional parliaments	LIBREVILLE (Gabon) 4 – 6 May 2025
Second Science for Peace School on <i>Understanding the ethics of artificial intelligence</i>	SESAME, ALLAN (Jordan) 5 – 9 May 2025
Parliamentary event at the 10th UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (UN STI Forum)	NEW YORK (USA) 7 or 8 May 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
Information seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for English-speaking participants	GENEVA (Switzerland) 20 – 23 May 2025
Parliamentary event at the World Health Assembly (19 – 27 May)	GENEVA (Switzerland) May 2025 (Date to be confirmed)
Second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue	ROME (Italy) 19 – 21 June 2025
Parliamentary Track at the Internet Governance Forum (23 – 27 June)	OSLO (Norway) 23 – 25 June 2025
Side event at the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development	SEVILLA (Spain) 30 June – 3 July 2025
SDG regional seminar for the parliaments of the Eurasia Group	ASHGABAT (Turkmenistan) June 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary Forum at the 2025 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (14 – 23 July)	NEW YORK (USA) 22 July 2025
15th Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament, prior to the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament	GENEVA (Switzerland) 28 July 2025
Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament	GENEVA (Switzerland) 29 – 31 July 2025
Second Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on <i>Regulating artificial intelligence: Ethics and the IPU Charter</i>	ICISE, QUY NHON (Viet Nam) September 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
55th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	GENEVA (Switzerland) September 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary session on the occasion of the WTO Public Forum	GENEVA (Switzerland) September 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Eleventh Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	Peru September 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
151st Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 19 – 23 October 2025
Meeting on AI policy and governance (title to be confirmed). Jointly organized by IPU, CPA and UNDP	KUALA LUMPUR (Malaysia) Dates in November 2025 to be confirmed

Parliamentary Meeting at COP30 (10 – 21 November)	Brazil November 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar on combating violence against women in parliament in the Asia-Pacific region on the occasion of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	November 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
High-level seminar for parliamentarians from countries that have not yet joined the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)	VIENNA (Austria) 2025 Dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from Gulf and African Countries, co-organized with the WTO	United Arab Emirates 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Seventh interregional seminar on the SDGs	BEIJING (China) 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Global conference on migration and human rights	GENEVA (Switzerland) 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
11th G20 Speakers' Summit (P20)	South Africa October/November 2025 (Venue and dates to be confirmed)
Regional seminar for parliamentarians from Africa on the promotion of Nuclear Security instruments (CPPNM, 2005 amendment and ICSANT)	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar for parliaments of the Western Balkans on climate action	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar for African parliaments on climate change and reducing methane emissions	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional Conference for European Parliaments on global health security	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Third Global Parliamentary Summit on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
World e-Parliament Conference	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar for parliamentarians from the South Pacific Islands on the promotion of Nuclear Security instruments (CPPNM, 2005 amendment and ICSANT)	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the African Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Eurasia Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Working together to advance women's political participation and decision-making: Series of in-person and online meetings between parliamentarians and partners in the Generation Equality Forum and/or WYDE Women's Leadership project	2025 Quarterly Venue to be confirmed
Regional seminar on countering terrorism and violent extremism for the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC)	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed

Regional seminar on promoting the rights of the child for the parliaments of the East and South Asia region	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar in the Sahel region, for the implementation of the Call of the Sahel	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Regional seminar to promote implementation of the legal framework on counter-terrorism for the Twelve Plus Group	2025 Venue and dates to be confirmed
From theory to action: Parliamentarians against hatred based on religion or belief – Crafting pathways to more peaceful, inclusive and just societies (Webinar 4/4)	Virtual May or September 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Virtual follow-up session to the Second Science for Peace Schools on <i>Understanding the ethics of artificial intelligence</i>	Virtual June 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Webinar to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Virtual 21 August 2025
“Transforming parliaments” webinar series about the digital transformation of parliaments and the use of AI in parliament	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
“AI policy and governance” webinar series in follow-up to the October 2024 resolution on the impact of AI on democracy, human rights and the rule of law	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Global webinar on parliament’s role in reducing global methane emissions	2025 Virtual (Dates to be confirmed)
Parliamentary dialogue on the Outcome Document for COP30	2025 Virtual (Dates to be confirmed)
Virtual follow-up session to the Second Science for Peace Parliamentary Meeting on <i>Regulating artificial intelligence: Ethics and the IPU Charter</i>	Virtual November 2025 (Dates to be confirmed)
Information Seminar on the structure and functioning of the Inter-Parliamentary Union for Spanish-speaking participants	2025 Virtual (Dates to be confirmed)
Webinar series on promoting the Model Legislative Provisions to support the victims of terrorism	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Series of online briefings for MPs on the United Nations organized by the IPU Permanent Observer Office to the United Nations in cooperation with relevant UN departments and missions (as needed)	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series to promote the use of human security and common security to build peace and the related toolkit with partners including the International Peace Bureau and the World Academy of Art and Science	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, co-organized with partners including Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the Parliamentary Forum for Small Arms and Light Weapons	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series: Global empowerment series for young parliamentarians: Briefings and training courses	2025 Virtual (Quarterly)

Webinar series on gender equality and women's empowerment	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
"Public engagement" webinar series in follow-up to the 2022 IPU-UNDP Global Parliamentary Report on public engagement in the work of parliament	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on mediation skills	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on parliamentary development co-organized with the Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training (CPST)	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
Webinar series on enhanced cooperation between parliaments and SAs	2025 Virtual (Series dates to be announced)
152nd Assembly and related meetings	GENEVA (Switzerland) 22 – 26 March 2026
Parliamentary Conference on the WTO (PCWTO) preceded by the PCWTO Steering Committee	YAOUNDÉ (Cameroon) or GENEVA (Dates in early 2026 to be confirmed)
56th session of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO	YAOUNDÉ (Cameroon) or GENEVA (Dates in early 2026 to be confirmed)
Twelfth Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians	SAMARKAND (Uzbekistan) 2026 (Dates to be confirmed)
153rd Assembly and related meetings	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Fourth World Summit of Committees of the Future	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Parliamentary Meeting at COP31	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed
Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians 2026	2026 Venue and dates to be confirmed

Agenda of the 151st Assembly

(Geneva, 19–23 October 2025)

1. Election of the President of the 151st Assembly
2. Consideration of requests for the inclusion of an emergency item in the Assembly agenda
3. General Debate
4. Special accountability segment on the implementation of IPU resolutions and other decisions
5. *Recognizing and supporting the victims of illegal international adoption and taking measures to prevent this practice*
(Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights)
6. Reports of the Standing Committees
7. Approval of the subject item for the Standing Committee on Democracy and Human Rights at the 153rd IPU Assembly and appointment of the co-Rapporteurs
8. Amendments to the IPU Statutes and Rules