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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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[without reference to a Main Committee ([A/74/L.85](#) and [A/74/L.85/Add.1](#))]

74/304. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,¹ in which Heads of State and Government resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in all fields of the work of the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolution [57/32](#) of 19 November 2002, in which the Inter-Parliamentary Union was invited to participate in the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer, and recalling further its resolution [72/278](#) of 22 May 2018, in which the Assembly, inter alia, decided to strengthen the modalities of the cooperation between United Nations entities and the global parliamentary community,

Taking into consideration the Cooperation Agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union of 1996,² which laid the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations, and taking note of the revised Cooperation Agreement of 2016,

Taking note of the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, as well as the many activities undertaken by that organization in support of the United Nations,

Noting the outcomes of the World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament held in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, which affirm the commitment of national parliaments

¹ Resolution [60/1](#).

² [A/51/402](#), annex.



and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to support the work of the United Nations and continue efforts to bridge the democracy gap in international relations,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation that is people-centred, and acknowledging the important role of the United Nations system and the key leadership role of the World Health Organization in this regard, and that national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union play an important role in the response and recovery efforts,

Welcoming the annual parliamentary hearings at the United Nations, as well as other specialized parliamentary meetings organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in cooperation with the United Nations to correspond to major United Nations conferences and events,

Recognizing the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in mobilizing parliamentary action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,⁴ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁵ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁷

Recognizing also the growing role of the Inter-Parliamentary Union Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs in providing a platform for regular interaction between parliamentarians and United Nations officials, including on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reviewing implementation of international commitments, facilitating closer ties between the United Nations country teams and national parliaments and helping to shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes,

Recognizing further the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the areas of democracy and the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls and eliminating violence against women and girls, youth empowerment, peace and security, disarmament, non-proliferation, humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, food security and nutrition, climate change, health and interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, as well as countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism,

Deeply concerned about all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, in political and in public life, as well as in parliaments and in leadership positions, and recognizing the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in combating such violence,

Highlighting the importance of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in parliaments, including in leadership positions, and the importance for parliaments to mainstream a gender perspective in their work,

Recognizing and affirming that the global fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and all their abhorrent and contemporary forms and manifestations is a matter of priority for the international community, as well as noting the launch of the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech in June 2019,

³ Resolution 70/1.

⁴ Resolution 69/313, annex.

⁵ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁶ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

⁷ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Bearing in mind that the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reaffirm its collective commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and reinvigorate multilateralism, and recognizing the role and the contributions of national parliaments, those of regional organizations and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote and strengthen multilateralism,

Recalling that in 2020 the international community commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and emphasizing in this regard the role of parliaments in supporting efforts to mitigate and resolve conflicts,

Mindful that technological change includes new and powerful tools that can help to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that the spread of information and communications technologies and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human development and bridge the digital divide, and recognizing that national parliaments, among others, play an important role in addressing the impact, opportunities and challenges of rapid technological change,

Noting the work carried out upon the request of Member States by agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, in support of national parliaments around the world,

Acknowledging the role and responsibility of national parliaments in regard to national plans and strategies, as well as in ensuring greater transparency and accountability at both the national and the global levels,

1. *Welcomes* the actions taken by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to pursue a more systematic engagement with the United Nations, and encourages both organizations to enhance their cooperation in meeting their common objectives;

2. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to continue to work closely in various fields, including the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental, peacebuilding and sustaining peace, countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, international law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, youth empowerment, democracy and good governance, poverty eradication, information and communications technologies, health, international migration, climate change, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, capacity-building and financing for development;

3. *Also encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen cooperation by engaging parliamentarians in efforts to maintain support for the implementation of relevant United Nations agreements and resolutions;

4. *Encourages* the continued active involvement of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in promoting the enhanced contribution of parliaments at the national, regional and global levels, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships, in support of the accelerated implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030;

5. *Calls upon* Member States, including their national parliaments, supported upon their request by the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and other relevant stakeholders to coordinate, as appropriate, so that their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic are people-centred and provide access, without discrimination of any kind, to safe, effective, affordable and quality essential medicines, vaccines, testing and diagnostics, personal protective equipment and medical equipment as may be required to effectively address COVID-19;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promote universal health coverage and to address public health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and invites the World Health Organization, as the United Nations specialized agency for health, and other relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to enhance cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in this regard;

7. *Notes* the preparations currently under way for the fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to be organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in close cooperation with the United Nations, entitled “Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet”, which will provide contributions to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations in September 2020;

8. *Welcomes* the practice of including parliamentarians as members of national delegations to major United Nations meetings and events, as appropriate, and invites Member States to continue this practice in a more regular and systematic manner;

9. *Invites* Member States to further consider ways to work regularly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in facilitating a parliamentary component to major United Nations conferences so as to help to inform such deliberations from a parliamentary perspective;

10. *Encourages* Member States to consider applying the practice of the joint United Nations-Inter-Parliamentary Union parliamentary hearing to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes, such as the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to including the outcome of these parliamentary meetings as a formal contribution to the respective United Nations processes;

11. *Welcomes* the enhanced contribution of parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies, and acknowledges the crucial role that parliaments play in translating international commitments into national policies and laws;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system to work closely with national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in accordance with their respective mandates and, upon request, in such areas as gender equality and the empowerment of women, including in conflict prevention and peace processes, institutional gender mainstreaming, support to parliaments in promoting gender-sensitive legislation, increasing the representation of women in parliaments, combating violence against women, including women in politics, and implementing relevant United Nations resolutions;

13. *Welcomes* the contributions of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development through the participation of parliamentarians, in convening a parliamentary event on the work of parliaments to institutionalize the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as through its efforts to encourage parliaments to engage in the voluntary national reviews of participating countries;

14. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to continue and enhance their cooperation in supporting Governments in facilitating the orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed

migration policies, and recalls the contribution of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration;⁸

15. *Encourages* the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to develop closer cooperation with parliaments at the national and regional levels, including in terms of strengthening parliamentary capacities, *inter alia*, in regard to the allocation of budgetary resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ as appropriate, in reinforcing the rule of law and helping to align national legislation with international commitments, and to facilitate, within existing resources, greater South-South and triangular cooperation between parliaments and parliamentarians;

16. *Recognizes* that the contributions of young people are important for the full and successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote concrete new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular when implementing the 2030 Agenda;

17. *Takes note* of the Common Principles for Support to Parliaments pioneered by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme and endorsed by 136 national parliaments and 8 parliamentary assemblies with a view to further strengthening the capacity of parliaments to perform their functions;

18. *Calls upon* United Nations country teams to develop, within their mandates and at the request of national authorities, a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, through appropriate mechanisms, *inter alia*, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness, where applicable;

19. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its member parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy;

20. *Calls for* regular annual exchanges and meetings at both the political and the operational levels between senior officials of the United Nations and of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, with a view to building greater coherence in the work of the two organizations and helping to forge a more robust strategic partnership between them;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations system to reflect more systematically the role and contribution of parliaments in its reports and draft strategic plans;

22. *Welcomes* the decision to observe 30 June of each year as the International Day of Parliamentarism, and invites all Member States, national parliaments, organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and all other relevant stakeholders to observe the Day and to promote awareness of it, while stressing that the cost of all activities that may arise from the observance of the Day by the United Nations should be met from voluntary contributions;

⁸ Resolution 73/195, annex.

23. *Acknowledges* the preparations under way by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with the United Nations, to organize, in May 2022 in the Russian Federation, the world conference on interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue with the participation of Heads of State, parliaments and representatives of world religions;

24. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,⁹ and requests that he submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report under the item entitled “Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union” with a special focus on the implementation of the shared global objectives of United Nations entities and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, including best practices and contributions of Member States, national parliaments, the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union to increase the representation of women in parliaments.

*63rd plenary meeting
4 September 2020*

⁹ A/74/759.