



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Geneva Declaration

Parliamentary diplomacy: Building bridges for peace and understanding

*Endorsed by the 148th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 March 2024)*

We, Members of Parliament from around the world, gathered together at the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, reaffirm our commitment to parliamentary diplomacy to address the growing challenges to peace and international security.

We are meeting at a time of great turbulence and instability. From the resurgence of conflicts and geopolitical tensions, the increase in social polarization and a looming new global arms race, to the devastating impacts of climate change and the dangers posed by artificial intelligence – the multi-faceted and intractable challenges we face underscore the urgency for a collective, forward-looking and durable response that learns from the past and goes beyond conventional solutions. As we navigate this intricate landscape, it becomes increasingly evident that addressing these complex challenges demands a shared global commitment to building a resilient foundation for lasting peace, rooted in the upholding of human rights and democratic principles.

We conclude this Assembly recognizing the potential of parliamentary diplomacy, grounded in dialogue, mutual respect and the achievement of common goals, as an important means to build trust, promote cooperation, share good practices, and enhance the contribution of parliaments and parliamentarians to building lasting world peace. We recognize that the tools of parliamentary diplomacy include bilateral and multilateral associations, such as inter-parliamentary institutions, staff exchanges and friendship groups. We welcome the work of the IPU to help foster political dialogue conducive to peacebuilding and the peaceful resolution of conflict, and encourage the IPU to continue its efforts in this regard. We also call upon the IPU to support and accompany a return to the rule of law in countries, many of them on the African continent, which have undergone an unconstitutional dissolution of parliament.

As representatives of the people, we parliamentarians are keenly aware of our responsibility to build bridges of understanding among nations, bring peace to citizens and find consensus on how to overcome joint hurdles. Parliamentarians further have an active role to play in ensuring that efforts to negotiate peace processes, treaties and other international agreements are rooted in the needs of the people, taking into account traditional wisdoms and values. In addition, we recognize that parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to ensure compliance with the rule of law and international norms, which are essential prerequisites for restoring the conditions for peaceful coexistence and alleviating the growing fragmentation of societies and the multilateral system.

We condemn all human rights violations arising during conflict as well as all breaches of the basic rules, principles and core tenets of international law, in particular international humanitarian law. In this regard we must pay particular attention to the situation of young people who, when faced with disruption in their formative years, risk growing up as a lost generation, and to recognizing the vital role that women can and should play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Parliamentary diplomacy is a crucial tool in empowering parliamentarians to actively promote and safeguard these rights and standards at the national level, as well as to advance democratic principles and human rights standards worldwide.

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Furthermore, we seek to prioritize the safeguarding of human rights by emphasizing the importance of ratifying and effectively implementing international humanitarian law and human rights instruments at the national level as a critical step in ensuring that those entitled to protection genuinely benefit from it. Likewise, we agree to work to disseminate international humanitarian law as widely as possible to the population as a whole, to provide gender-sensitive training to armed and security forces on this subject and to step up the accountability of these forces for their actions.

We strongly reiterate our commitment to upholding the rule of law, both domestically and internationally, as the cornerstone of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as our belief in dialogue and diplomacy as an indispensable tool to achieve enduring peace. We urge all States, especially those parties to an armed conflict, to adhere strictly to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, with no exceptions. Additionally, we advocate for increased recourse to the International Court of Justice and other international judicial institutions as essential mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of disputes between nations.

We condemn the recent surge in identity-based hatred around the world, particularly religious hatred, and regret the political polarization that is helping to drive this phenomenon. We advocate for holistic dialogue processes that involve representatives of religions, beliefs and faith-based organizations to effectively complement existing efforts to mitigate violence and promote peace, inclusion and understanding. We commit to continuing our work to achieve the recommendations outlined in the Marrakesh Communiqué, the outcome document of the IPU's Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue, held in June 2023.

There is a close link between peace and development. The deterioration of peace and the escalation in the frequency and severity of conflicts within and between countries jeopardizes development gains and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Vulnerable, marginalized and underrepresented members of society, such as women, youth, children, the elderly, the poor, indigenous people, minorities, and persons with disabilities, are disproportionately impacted by conflict, which further exacerbates pre-existing inequalities, such as unequal access to socio-economic and political rights. One such manifestation of this is in the radicalization by extremist groups of at-risk and often under-employed youth in fragile, conflict-affected States, undermining national security.

Our focus should be on tackling the underlying causes of conflict, which are often rooted in economic inequality and discrimination against entire groups. The well-being of the most vulnerable is a good litmus test for the health of society at large. Therefore, it is imperative to address the specific needs of at-risk members of the population by embracing inclusive solutions that simultaneously preserve their dignity, reduce their exposure to the detrimental impacts of conflict and provide the conditions for them to realize their socioeconomic potential. We should therefore increase our focus on human security, which encompasses citizens' protection by prioritizing essential needs such as food, health care and environmental security, and on guaranteeing equal rights for all, as the main path to fostering both peace and development.

We must monitor the early warning signs of potential conflicts both locally and nationally and take adequate action to prevent escalation, foster dialogue and cooperation, and ensure compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. In this vein, we recognize our responsibility to promote conflict prevention through a focus on disarmament, reducing military spending, shifting budget priorities to better address the root causes of conflict, and holding governments to account – including by challenging their use of emergency powers to wage war. We also need to work towards the demilitarization of cyberspace and artificial intelligence, so that they can instead be used to open up spaces for scientific breakthroughs, international cooperation and peace.

Since parliamentarians are well-placed to play the role of impartial mediators, to facilitate dialogue to prevent or de-escalate conflict or to restore peace, we also pledge to redouble our efforts to resolve conflicts through the exercise of parliamentary diplomacy. We reaffirm our commitment to preventing a relapse of large-scale disputes in post-conflict situations, including through enacting, overseeing and monitoring the implementation of peace agreements and ensuring they are accompanied by adequate funding for basic health care services, mental health support, transitional justice and institutional reforms. We further commit to addressing past and current discord through bolstering citizen engagement and ensuring that perspectives from the full breadth of civil society and civic institutions are heard.

We are committed to fostering the more substantial involvement of women and youth in politics and leadership roles, including in the military and security sectors. We commit ourselves to the effective implementation of the women, peace and security, and youth, peace and security agendas of the UN Security Council by ensuring that peace processes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and conflict prevention integrate a gender perspective and guarantee the equal and meaningful participation of women and youth. We also will strive to take all necessary measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, especially against women in politics, as well as conflict-related gender-based violence and violence against minority and marginalized groups. Moreover, we commit to providing assistance to survivors of such violence, recognizing the importance of inclusivity and gender-sensitive approaches in creating a more equitable and secure environment.

Today's challenges transcend borders and demand a collective global response. As members of parliament, we agree on the importance of restoring trust in multilateralism. Further, it is only through international cooperation and upholding the rule of law that we can address growing risks, build solidarity and, through a common security approach, find lasting solutions to establish a shared sense of security, where all nations feel safe, leading to a more secure world for future generations. Essential to the credibility and success of all these efforts is ensuring that the attention and resources devoted to responding to global challenges are commensurate with their severity and not motivated by geopolitical interests, bearing in mind the equal rights, dignity and value of each human life.

Finally, as we mark the 135th anniversary of the IPU, we reconfirm our commitment to inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation, and we emphasize the IPU's unique role as the parliamentary counterpart to the United Nations. As we look ahead to the UN Summit of the Future in September 2024, we call on all Member Parliaments to help advance UN reform and to further strengthen the parliamentary dimension of the work of the UN. In turn, we shall take this Declaration back to our respective parliaments, disseminate the outcome of our collective work to our national authorities, and seek to mark the International Day of Parliamentarism (30 June, which coincides with the anniversary of the IPU) through a dedicated event in our respective parliaments.

As parliamentarians, we commit to lead the way towards a more peaceful world, pursuing tenacious, evidence-based and original approaches, and drawing on the experiences of all members of the global parliamentary community. We therefore pledge to do our utmost, individually and collectively, to protect and promote peace for all.



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148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Addressing the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapon systems and artificial intelligence

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 148th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 March 2024)*

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Acknowledging that, while the applications of emerging technologies open up opportunities for the development of humanity, they may also pose significant challenges to peace and international security and may raise new questions about the role of humans in warfare, that regulation of autonomy in the context of weapon systems requires a holistic understanding of its effects, and that human decision-making and control must take account of all ethical, legal, humanitarian and security implications,

Affirming that any discussion on autonomous weapon systems (AWS) is subject to international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law (IHL),

Noting the lack of an agreed definition of autonomous weapon systems, and *recalling* the proposal of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in which the term “autonomous weapon systems” encompasses any weapon system with autonomy in its critical functions, which means that it can select (i.e. search for, detect, identify or track) and attack (i.e. use force against, neutralize, damage or destroy) targets without human intervention,

Recognizing that the preservation of human control and judgment stands as a critical factor in ensuring legal compliance and effectively addressing the ethical concerns that arise from the deployment of AWS,

Gravely concerned that AWS that have full autonomy in their critical functions could be able to select and attack targets without human intervention,

Concerned that the lack of control and explicit regulation at the international level around the use of AWS could allow operators to violate international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations and IHL, without accountability, potentially infringing on the fundamental human rights enshrined in national, regional and international legal frameworks, due to the absence of human judgement and supervision and the lack of opportunities for timely intervention or mechanisms for deactivation over the use of force,

Deeply concerned about the possible negative consequences and impact of AWS on global security and regional and international stability, including the risk of an emerging arms race, lowering the threshold for conflict and proliferation, including to non-State actors, as outlined in United Nations General Assembly resolution 78/241 on lethal autonomous weapon systems,

Concerned that advancements in sophisticated military technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic data processing, may increase the risk of a new arms race, lowering the threshold for conflict and proliferation, including to non-State actors, and putting peace and international security at even greater risk, but *acknowledging* that a ban on research would be unrealistic, not least when so much of the research in this field is conducted by both military and civilian players and AI still has a very important role to play in civilian life,

Alarmed by the possibility that AWS have the potential to become future weapons of mass destruction as they combine two properties unique to such weapons: mass harm and lack of human control to ensure they do not injure civilians,

Conscious that human rights instruments guarantee the right to life, dignity and integrity of persons,

Deeply concerned that AWS could be used by armed groups and other non-State actors to undermine national, regional and global security, causing profound social and humanitarian impact,

Alarmed by the evidence that individual recognition algorithms, including facial recognition and automated decision algorithms have native embedded bias that is already propagating gender and race discrimination and perpetrating injustices against socio-economically disadvantaged people, the vulnerable and people with disabilities, and that AWS could be deliberately programmed to target people bearing certain “markers” or identities including race, gender or patterns of behaviour, and to apply force without human intervention, potentially leading to disproportionate harm to specific groups, locations or communities,

Recalling, without prejudice to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental rule under IHL according to which the right of Parties to a conflict to choose their means and methods of warfare is not unlimited, as stated in Article 35 (1) of the Additional Protocol I (AP I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims in international armed conflicts, and as provided for by customary international law, as well as the obligation stated in Article 36 of AP I, which requires States to conduct reviews of the study, development, acquisition or adoption of all new weapons, means and methods of warfare in order to determine whether their use is prohibited by IHL or any other rule of applicable international law ,

Mindful that, for decades, the international community has been actively keeping track of the emerging issues of AWS, marked by key milestones in AWS regulatory governance, including the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions in 2010, which brought the issue of lethal autonomous robotics and the protection of life to the international spotlight and that, since 2013, the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW), a key IHL instrument, have been holding discussions on the issue and, in 2016, established an open-ended Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapon systems (LAWS),

Recognizing the GGE as a key international forum at which a framework around LAWS is being developed,

Noting the fact that, during its 2023 meetings, the GGE underscored the need to anticipate technological advancements in LAWS, urging strict adherence to IHL throughout the life cycle of these systems, highlighting the need for limitations on targets and operational parameters, coupled with appropriate training and instructions for human operators, and firmly stating that any LAWS-based system unable to comply with international law should not be deployed,

Acknowledging the adoption of resolution 78/241 by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2023, which, inter alia, requests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations submit a substantive report on the subject reflecting the full range of views received from Member and observer States on ways to address the related challenges and concerns such systems raise from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives, and on the role of humans in the use of force, and invite the views of international and regional organizations, the ICRC, civil society, the scientific community and industry,

Recognizing that, since 2018, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has consistently maintained that AWS are politically unacceptable and morally repugnant and has called for their prohibition under international law, and that when presenting his *New Agenda for*

Peace ahead of the Summit of the Future in 2024, he further called on States to adopt by 2026 a legally binding instrument to prohibit AWS that function without human control or oversight and to regulate all other types of AWS,

Recognizing also that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights, the ICRC, civil society, including through the Stop Killer Robots Campaign, the scientific community, and academia have joined the call by the Secretary-General of the United Nations for a global prohibition on AWS,

Noting that the landmark joint appeal made in 2023 by the United Nations Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC underlined the urgency for States to negotiate a new, binding international law on AWS to set clear prohibitions and restrictions on AWS by 2026,

Mindful that many States and groups of countries have already been calling for the establishment of a legally binding instrument to regulate, limit and/or prohibit the use of AWS, and, at the same time, *cognisant* of the need for a unanimous decision, i.e. that all States agree to follow the proposed limitations,

Recognizing that urgent, concrete action is needed to develop international approaches, particularly given that weapon systems with varying degrees of autonomy have already been used in various conflicts,

Considering the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, and IHL and its founding principles of humanity, dictates of public conscience and ethical perspectives,

Reaffirming that, because IHL requires commanders and the users of weapons to be able to anticipate and limit their effects, weapon systems must be predictable, and that the potential “black box” effect arising from the integration of AI technologies could hinder compliance with these obligations,

Gravely concerned that the longer States wait to regulate AWS, the more likely the flow and proliferation of such systems will continue on the market,

Stressing the need to study an international regulatory framework for the use of AI to regulate the harmful use of this technology,

Highlighting that parliaments will have a significant role to play in raising awareness on the social, humanitarian, legal and ethical implications of the use of AWS, and in supporting governments with inputs to draft the text for an instrument to regulate such systems,

1. *Urges* parliaments and parliamentarians to actively and urgently engage in the debate to address the threat to peace and security posed by AWS;
2. *Strongly urges* parliaments to develop comprehensive national legislation to establish regulatory frameworks governing the development, deployment and use of AWS, once international agreement has been reached on a definition of “autonomous weapon system” and on the distinction between full and partial autonomy as well as consensus on the use and content of the term “meaningful human control”, taking into account all their ethical, legal, humanitarian and security implications and including the prohibition of AWS that function without human control or oversight, and which cannot be used in compliance with IHL;
3. *Calls on* parliaments to urge their governments to continue working through international forums, including the United Nations and the GGE, on an instrument, governance framework and regulations on autonomy in weapon systems, to ensure compliance with international law, including IHL, and ethical perspectives, as well as the prevention of the peace and security impact that autonomy in weapon systems entails;

4. *Suggests* that parliaments encourage their governments to share their views with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on ways to address challenges and concerns raised by AWS in accordance with resolution 78/241 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2023 and *A New Agenda for Peace*, which recommends multilateral efforts for a legally binding instrument on LAWS and other types of AWS by 2026;
5. *Recommends* that parliaments and parliamentarians work with relevant stakeholders, including the defence industry, civil society and academia, to understand, evaluate and create safeguards in relation to both AI and AWS, including weapon system designers, particularly regarding their compliance with existing law and with any developments to the law that may occur in the future;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to regularly assess and evaluate the application of new technologies, to avoid these technologies creating a unilateral pressure on all citizens that grants disproportionate powers to the parties when operating without proper oversight, and to address the risks posed by facial recognition systems, including hardware, software and algorithms, including to prevent gender and racial bias, that may be integrated into AWS;
7. *Urges* parliaments and parliamentarians to play a crucial role in holding governments accountable regarding AWS, in ensuring quality in their governance, notably regarding the imperative of retaining human control over the use of force, and transparency in their design, development, operation, regulation and oversight, and in triggering concrete action by governments and societies more broadly;
8. *Calls on* parliaments to encourage governments to engage actively in the ongoing discussions on LAWS at the GGE and to take all necessary efforts to support the GGE's work;
9. *Also calls on* parliaments to strongly urge their governments to establish robust frameworks for data protection to govern the development, deployment and use of AWS, emphasizing the critical importance of safeguarding sensitive data and ensuring ethical and responsible use of information;
10. *Urges* parliaments to ensure the establishment of effective mechanisms to conduct investigations, prosecution and punishment for violations of IHL arising from the use of weapons with autonomous functionalities, thereby upholding individual responsibilities and ensuring accountability for any breaches of ethical and legal standards;
11. *Also urges* parliaments to request that their governments clearly define their own responsibilities and those of the private sector and civil society with regard to AWS, and adopt legislation that incorporates regulatory frameworks and safeguards to ensure that such systems do not fall into criminal hands or into the hands of non-State actors that operate outside the law, and that such laws are fully in line with international human rights obligations;
12. *Encourages* parliaments and parliamentarians to stimulate exchange of relevant good practices between States, with due regard for national security regulations and commercial restrictions on private information;
13. *Recommends* that parliaments and parliamentarians: (a) allocate budgets to fund plans, programmes, projects and actions to raise awareness of the need to prevent, regulate, monitor and enforce human rights and safeguards related to AWS; (b) advocate for the incorporation of comprehensive educational programmes on AI and autonomous systems within national curricula at appropriate educational levels to promote widespread understanding of both the potential benefits and the risks associated with these technologies, including their ethical, legal, humanitarian and security implications;

14. *Calls for* the adoption of measures to ensure the inclusion of a gender and intersectional perspective based on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in discussions of AWS and military AI strategies;
15. *Calls on* relevant parliamentary networks and IPU permanent observers to include AWS on their agendas and to inform the IPU of their work and findings on the issue;
16. *Invites* the IPU, through its relevant Standing Committee and specialized bodies, to keep abreast of the issue and organize at the 151st Assembly a panel discussion, inviting relevant parliamentary networks and IPU permanent observers to participate, aimed at taking stock of the situation in advance of the 2026 deadline set by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to adopt a legally binding instrument on AWS;
17. *Suggests* that the IPU Secretariat compile and analyse a set of parliamentary good practices and stocktaking related to the use of AI in the security and military sectors and derived from the discussion within the IPU framework and other subsequent IPU activities, including measures to remove bias in the algorithms that underpin AI systems that are capable of autonomous analysis and actions;
18. *Urges* the Secretary General of the IPU to share the present resolution and further reports and publications related to AWS with the Secretary-General of the United Nations for inclusion in the report mentioned in resolution 78/241 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2023;
19. *Invites* the IPU to regularly hold sessions for parliamentarians to discuss the latest developments with AWS and AI and reassess their impacts in the military domain, particularly with regard to specific concerns on human rights violations, meaningful human control over the use of force and the ethical implications of these technologies;
20. *Encourages* parliaments to implement their strategies to exercise more effective parliamentary oversight functions and ensure that technological development, such as AI, is only deployed to assist humans in certain tasks, without compromising meaningful human control and intervention whenever it is needed.

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- *- **India, Iran (Islamic Republic of)** and the **Russian Federation** expressed their opposition to the entire text of the resolution.
- **China** and **Lithuania** expressed a reservation on the entire text of the resolution.
 - **Australia, New Zealand** and the **United Kingdom** expressed reservations on several paragraphs.
 - **Cuba** and **France** expressed a reservation on the use of the term “autonomous weapon systems (AWS)” without mentioning the characteristic of lethality (i.e. lethal autonomous weapon system – LAWS).
 - **Türkiye** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 13, 17, 18, 20 and 21, and operative paragraphs 2, 4 and 16.
 - **Republic of Korea** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 18 and 19, and operative paragraph 16.
 - **Canada** expressed reservations on preambular paragraph 3 and operative paragraph 2 on the grounds that they are too prescriptive for national governments.



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148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Partnerships for climate action: Promoting access to affordable green energy, and ensuring innovation, responsibility and equity

Resolution adopted by consensus by the 148th IPU Assembly
(Geneva, 27 March 2024)*

The 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Recalling the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to climate change, as well as the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COPs), which underline the urgent need for immediate, deep, rapid and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions across all applicable sectors based on available means of implementation, including through increased use of low-emission and renewable energy, just energy transition partnerships, and other multilevel and cooperative actions in the light of national circumstances,

Recalling also the IPU resolution *Climate change – Let us not cross the line*, adopted at the 139th IPU Assembly in October 2018, the *Parliamentary action plan on climate change* endorsed by the IPU Governing Council at its 198th session in March 2016, and the COP28 Parliamentary Meeting outcome document of December 2023,

Noting the importance of strengthening partnerships between all countries, parliaments, public and private institutions (governmental, non-governmental and inter-parliamentary), and civil society (especially vulnerable groups) to combat climate change, and that without such cooperation to facilitate climate action, the impacts of climate change will be inevitable at all levels,

Recalling the *COP28 UAE Consensus*, which has the potential to become a benchmark for partnerships for climate action by laying out a response to the global stocktake, putting forward a plan to close implementation gaps by 2030, calling on Parties to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner to reach net zero, recognizing the crucial need to scale up adaptation finance, and introducing targets to triple renewable energy capacity globally and double the global rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030,

Recalling also the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system,

Considering that the Paris Agreement has established mechanisms and procedures allowing countries to define their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change; *expressing appreciation* that all Parties to the Paris Agreement have communicated NDCs that demonstrate progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal; and *noting* that more ambitious mitigation targets in NDCs are needed to reduce emissions rapidly,

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Noting the launch, during the COP26 meeting in Glasgow, of the Global Methane Pledge, which is based on solid scientific data and contains a commitment to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030,

Noting also that, presently, more than 155 countries have signed the Global Methane Pledge, and *recognizing* that only by drastically reducing methane emissions in the current decade will it be possible to stay on track to avoid the average temperature rise in the atmosphere exceeding the 1.5°C target,

Bearing in mind that, despite making up only 16% of greenhouse gases, methane is responsible for approximately a third of global warming and traps 80 times more heat than carbon dioxide, although it dissipates in the atmosphere within decades, rather than centuries as is the case for carbon dioxide, and *recognizing* both forestry activity, thanks to its vital importance in capturing carbon dioxide, and the production of renewable raw materials for construction, such as wood and its derivatives, as strategic for the sustainable development of countries,

Acknowledging that the right to a clean and healthy environment, including the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, is a fundamental right enshrined in both national and international laws,

Considering that parliaments play a fundamental role in the oversight and control of government policies on environmental matters as well as in budgetary allocations and enacting legislation, monitoring the implementation of corresponding legislation and regulations, and ensuring alignment between national policies and international commitments,

Considering also that many parliamentary initiatives address the need for urgent financing and climate action, including the parliamentary platforms taking shape for climate action against methane emissions,

Acknowledging that reducing carbon emissions is critical in dealing with climate change and mitigating environmental damage, and that renewable energy that does not degrade ecosystems provides a cleaner and more sustainable means to meet energy demand, bringing environmental sustainability and offering the further advantage of being able to provide power to even the most underprivileged people living in the remotest areas,

Acknowledging also that armed conflicts instigated by States or non-States have a considerable impact on the climate, causing the release of significant amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, leading to the destruction of ecosystems that currently store carbon and absorb and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, and resulting in ecocide,

Acknowledging further that the deployment of renewables in the power, heat and transport sectors is one of the main enablers of keeping the rise in average global temperatures within reach of 1.5°C, that the need to encourage the deployment of renewable energy has increased in recent years, that more cities, regions and countries, both developed and developing, are promoting and adopting policies to deploy renewable energy, and that concrete and easily-measured environmental goals are paramount in this respect,

Emphasizing the need for deep, rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C pathways, as expressed in the decision on the first global stocktake at COP28, by tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030 as well as through accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies and transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems,

Welcoming the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, which emphasizes accelerating clean, sustainable, just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions through various pathways, as a means of enabling strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth and achieving climate objectives, and which calls for recognition of the needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and different national circumstances of developing countries and support of strong international and national enabling environments to foster innovation, voluntary and mutually agreed technology transfer, and access to low-cost financing,

Recognizing the need expressed in the decision on the first global stocktake at COP28 for States to contribute to global climate change efforts by accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies, and low-carbon hydrogen production,

Recognizing also the importance of the agreement reached at COP27 to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts and other climate disasters, and *welcoming* the subsequent operationalization of the global fund for loss and damage at COP28,

Recognizing further the role of developed countries in providing support to and enhancing cooperation with developing countries in transitioning to low-carbon, low-emission economies; *emphasizing* the imperative to significantly scale finance to meet the urgent and evolving needs of developing countries, including access to technology and low-cost financing; *advocating* a collective approach for technology transfer and development, knowledge sharing, and cultivating innovative solutions as crucial to fostering socially just, sustainable and effective progress; and *emphasizing* that every nation is responsible for creating an attractive investment climate that can draw in both domestic and international capital to speed up change,

Noting that developed countries, as the largest contributors to carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas emissions, should bear the greatest responsibility,

Noting also that the world's population is growing at an unprecedented rate and that this has resulted in a dramatic increase in energy demand globally, at a rate likely to be even more rapid than population growth,

Aware that, in an effort to meet this ever-increasing energy demand and address the issue of global warming, breakthrough advances have been made in the design of technologies that can control emissions and harness power from renewable and alternative energy sources, but their costs remain unaffordable to many developing countries,

Recognizing the need to promote and encourage new technologies to scale up integration of battery energy storage systems, aimed at enabling greater integration of variable renewable energy sources and fulfilling the dynamic energy requirements of a growing population,

Encouraging the harmonization of zero- and low-carbon hydrogen standards with the goal of fostering worldwide collaboration, facilitating trade and igniting innovation, which holds the capacity to unlock economies of scale, promote technology transfer and development, expedite the transition towards cleaner energy sources, and reach the full potential of renewable energy,

Welcoming the collaborative initiatives on universal energy access from civil society organizations for increased deployment of green energy technologies to bring energy access, ensure energy security and drive energy transition,

Recognizing the crucial role of grid interconnections, resilient energy infrastructure and regional/cross-border power systems integration in enhancing energy security, fostering economic growth, and facilitating universal energy access for all, in an affordable, reliable and sustainable manner,

Highlighting that climate change impacts individuals and communities differently, with women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the populations of small island developing States, indigenous groups and communities in vulnerable situations often bearing the brunt of its consequences, and *calling for* coordinated efforts to ensure that actions to address these challenges reflect a comprehensive and equitable approach to climate action, including through the promotion of just transition pathways,

Recognizing that women and girls are uniquely affected by the damaging effects of climate change and that steps should be taken to support women's leadership and decision making in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, resilience-building and sustainable natural resource management,

Acknowledging that youth are the most important and dynamic segment of the population in a society, that they are agents of change, entrepreneurs and innovators, and that, through education, science and technology, they are scaling up their efforts and using their skills to accelerate climate action, taking account of their common needs, such as access to quality education to prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow, the availability of decent work, equality among men and women, and a planet that is healthy, clean and sustainable,

Bearing in mind that promoting climate culture and harnessing the perspectives, new ideas and energy of young people constitute vital components in the broader efforts to address key issues affecting people of all ages, such as achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), peace and security, the right to education, health and social protection, gender equality, equal socioeconomic and political opportunities, and fighting climate change,

Acknowledging the importance of investments in sustainable, healthy lifestyles, just and sustainable energy transitions, and accelerating progress with and achievement of the SDGs, especially in developing countries, as well as in the context of the fight to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions,

Recognizing that sustainable and responsible consumption, production and trade, coupled with environmentally friendly life choices and lifestyles such as zero-waste approaches, are key to achieving the SDGs, including climate goals and inclusive economic growth,

Recognizing also the leadership of subnational governments in accelerating and scaling up climate mitigation and adaptation action through the implementation of local and regional climate plans and actions, while effectively engaging citizens and industry in the transformative process towards responsible consumption and production,

Envisaging a comprehensive transformation in energy efficiency measures and global reduction in consumption, with the ambitious target of doubling the global annual rate of energy efficiency improvement by 2030 in a nationally determined manner, taking into account the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement and different national circumstances, pathways and approaches to foster a sustainable and responsible energy landscape on a global scale, and *acknowledging* that the global transition provides opportunities for and poses challenges to sustainable development, economic growth and eradication of poverty, and thus requires a coherent, just transition in different sectors of the national economy,

Recognizing the importance of accelerating the development, transfer, deployment, and dissemination of technologies, and of adopting policies to transition towards zero- and low-emission energy systems, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and *emphasizing* the need to make these technologies available and as affordable as possible to all,

Highlighting the importance of addressing environmental challenges through united climate actions and partnerships to safeguard the planet for present and future generations,

1. *Emphasizes* that global warming is a collective challenge requiring strengthened international cooperation and multilateral processes under the aegis of the UNFCCC framework, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities as outlined in Article 3.1 of the Convention and Article 2.2 of its Paris Agreement; and *underscores* the need for added international support for developing countries;
2. *Encourages* parliaments to ensure a transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade to achieve the goal of net zero emissions;
3. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing a clean energy mix in line with 1.5°C pathways, including zero- and low-emission and renewable energy, at all levels as part of diversifying energy mixes and systems, in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards just transitions; particularly for workers whose jobs are affected by the transition away from fossil fuels;

4. *Affirms* support for promoting reliable, diversified, sustainable and responsible supply chains for energy transitions, including for critical minerals and materials through responsible sourcing practices and international cooperation;
5. *Reaffirms* parliaments' steadfast commitment, in pursuit of the objectives of the UNFCCC, to tackle climate change by strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and its temperature goals, reflecting equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;
6. *Encourages* parliaments to urge their respective governments to undertake policy measures to combat climate change, promote renewable, zero- and low-emission energy, implement various schemes and initiatives, including based on the COP28 global stocktake, and establish regulatory frameworks to support green energy initiatives to the benefit of the people;
7. *Calls on* parliaments to actively commit to collective climate action to cut methane emissions, and ensure that:
 - (a) NDCs explicitly include reductions of methane emissions,
 - (b) legislative initiatives in national parliaments reduce methane emissions in the energy and waste management sectors,
 - (c) best practices in agriculture are promoted, such as sustainable agriculture and livestock farming as strategic economic activities,
 - (d) resources are allocated, including funding for research, technology development and implementation of methane emissions reduction strategies;
8. *Also calls on* parliaments to monitor whether government policies are effectively aligned with the commitments and emission reduction goals established in the Global Methane Pledge and the International Energy Agency's 75% reduction goal;
9. *Further calls on* parliaments to ensure that international funding in the coming years focuses on aid, investments and deployment of innovative green technologies to reduce methane emissions, namely by:
 - (a) detecting and repairing methane emissions from oil, gas and coal production and distribution, upgrading obsolete equipment, reducing flaring and venting waste, and applying drastic emissions controls,
 - (b) implementing better livestock and manure management practices,
 - (c) investing in waste management (household and industrial), as well as waste reduction, requiring landfills to strictly control methane emissions, and diverting organic waste to valorization processes such as composting, protein extraction and energy production;
10. *Recognizes* that the unprecedented global energy crisis underlines the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable and resilient, including by accelerating the clean, equitable, affordable and just transition to renewable, zero- and low-emission energy;
11. *Encourages* the collective actions and efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies, as well as to demonstrate similar ambition with respect to other zero- and low-emission technologies, including, inter alia, renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies such as carbon capture and utilization and storage, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors, and low-carbon hydrogen production, in line with national circumstances;
12. *Encourages* parliaments to urge their respective governments to meet their international commitments to contribute to global climate change efforts by accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, including renewables, nuclear, abatement and removal technologies, and low-carbon hydrogen production;

13. *Urges* parliaments to press their governments to create international, national, regional and local enabling environments and partnerships to foster innovation, voluntary and mutually agreed upon-technology development and transfer, and access to low-cost financing, including capacity-building, grant-based finance and non-debt instruments, taking into account the needs, vulnerabilities, priorities and different national circumstances of developing countries;
14. *Also urges* parliaments to press their governments to allocate specific budgetary resources for climate action initiatives, focusing on the implementation of sustainable, zero- and low-emission development strategies, and to prioritize capacity-building to empower all nations, particularly those facing significant socio-economic challenges and the adverse effects of climate change;
15. *Encourages* parliaments to establish a parliamentary mechanism to systematically monitor and report, through an evidence-based approach, the progress of climate-related legislation and the mainstreaming of green budgeting in parliamentary procedures, to ensure transparency and accountability of the climate actions taken;
16. *Encourages* national parliaments to cooperate with other regional and international parliaments on knowledge exchange and the transfer of best practices, policy standards and legislation regarding climate action for sustainable development and clean technology transfer and development;
17. *Recommends* that the IPU, other inter-parliamentary institutions and platforms, and national parliaments closely engage with relevant international climate stakeholders including the UNFCCC finance architecture and its climate technology framework as a means to strengthen parliamentary exposure and awareness on climate issues;
18. *Urges* parliaments to cooperate with the public and private sectors to create a conducive environment for investing in clean energy technologies and infrastructure, capacity-building and technology transfer and development, as well as to promote greater public-private partnership at the regional and international level, and to deliver a more people-centred energy transition and climate-resilient development for all;
19. *Calls upon* parliaments to urge their governments to work towards facilitating access to low-cost financing for developing countries, for existing as well as new and emerging clean and sustainable energy technologies, and for supporting just and sustainable energy transitions;
20. *Recognizes* the role of parliamentarians in raising awareness of climate change issues and of the fact that children and youth will be significantly affected in the future by climate change, and *calls on* governments to include youth in all climate negotiations;
21. *Encourages* parliaments to ensure the meaningful and equal participation of women in climate action, including gender-responsive implementation of climate goals;
22. *Applauds* the initiative of the IPU to engage parliaments and parliamentarians in its *Parliaments for the Planet* campaign, which highlights that parliaments and parliamentarians can be agents of change by contributing to ensure a just, inclusive, equitable and sustainable transition through collective, individual and institutional efforts;
23. *Encourages* national parliaments to take stronger climate action by implementing the IPU climate change tools, such as the *10 actions for greener parliaments*, to align their work with greening initiatives, to take greater part in NDC processes and to call for more ambitious climate action plans and goals that focus on people-centred and community-led adaptation and a just and equitable energy transition at all levels;

24. *Recognizes* that climate equity is impossible when entities responsible for climate damage are not held accountable;
25. *Emphasizes* the importance of considering climate change-related damages within reparation mechanisms arising from internationally wrongful acts and of acknowledging that major past, present and future large emitters have a great responsibility in this respect;
26. *Highlights* the need to define ecocide as unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

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- *- **India** and **Iran (Islamic Republic of)** expressed their opposition to the entire text of the resolution.
- **China** expressed reservations on preambular paragraphs 7 and 8, and operative paragraphs 7, 8 and 25.
 - **Türkiye** expressed reservations on operative paragraphs 24, 25 and 26.



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

148th IPU Assembly

Geneva, 23–27 March 2024

Reform of the United Nations Security Council

*Motion adopted by the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs
(Geneva, 26 March 2024)*

The IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs is committed to seeing reform of the United Nations Security Council.

In the context of diminishing trust in the UN multilateral system, the Committee is deeply concerned by the current stalemate at the UN, where reform of the Security Council has been on the agenda for decades with no end in sight.

Despite widespread acknowledgment that the composition of the Security Council does not reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century, Member States remain deeply divided on, among other things, the question of expanded membership, the criteria by which new members should be considered, and possible limits to the use of the veto power by current and future permanent members.

The Committee welcomes resolution 76/262 of the General Assembly, which makes Permanent Members accountable to the General Assembly whenever they make use of their veto power to block a resolution of the Security Council. However, as recent experience demonstrates, this measure is not strong enough to prevent misuse of the veto.

Without effective Security Council reform, the Committee believes that the overall effort to make the multilateral system more democratic and accountable to the people will be severely hampered. The Committee looks to this year's Summit of the Future as an opportunity to demonstrate meaningful progress in order to restore trust and faith in multilateralism when global cooperation is most needed.

Building on the briefing on Security Council reform held at the 147th Assembly (Luanda, Angola, October 2023) and reflecting on possible parliamentary action to advance the current discussions, the Committee urgently calls upon each IPU Member Parliament to:

1. Engage with its government leadership and its Permanent Representatives to the United Nations to obtain regular updates about proposals for reforming the Security Council as well as progress made in this regard;
2. Demand that the reform process is undertaken democratically, inclusively and transparently, and with an eye to the Summit of the Future in September 2024 as a decisive turning point;
3. Prepare for the ratification of UN Security Council reform, pursuant to any final General Assembly approval and in accordance with national procedures; and
4. Engage in parliamentary processes, such as debates, committee hearings and resolutions, to influence the intergovernmental process leading up to the Summit of the Future in order to ensure that the voices of parliamentarians are reflected in its outcome document, the Pact for the Future.